

*Hafa Adai!*

Pena House burglary suspect falls.

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Man indicted for concealing  
\$20K in his luggage.

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

## 166 seek shelter as Bavi batters NMI

» Power lines, trees down, causing islandwide outages; 166 people taken to shelters

Typhoon Bavi's strong winds topple a tree in Kagman III across the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort. This blocked the main road toward the school area in Kagman. Government staff are seen here trimming the tree, while cars use an alternative route near the sidewalk to avoid the tree.

JAYSON CAMACHO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Erratic Tropical Storm Bavi battered the CNMI yesterday, knocking down power lines and trees, and causing damage to some houses and structures, triggering islandwide power outages, and sending 166 people to evacuation centers.

See SHELTER on Page 4

## GCA's Calayo tops Scripps Reg'l Spelling Bee in Guam

By THOMAS MANGLONA II  
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy's Justine Calayo was named as the 2015 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee champion last Saturday after correctly spelling "echidna" in the competi-

tion's 20th round held at Leo Palace Resort in Guam.

The 8th grade student, last year's spelling bee competition's runner-up, defeated the competition's returning champion, Rocky Caoloma from Santa Barbara Catholic School, and

See GCA on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2015 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee champion Justine Calayo, center, poses for a photo with her mother Des Calayo, left, and GCA teacher and spelling coach Joanna Marie Dubiel.

## 2015 TUMON BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

### MHS Rhythm 'N Harmony triumphs as overall winner

By JAYSON CAMACHO  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas High School's glee club Rhythm 'N Harmony was declared the overall winner of the weeklong 2015 Tumon Bay Musical Festival last Saturday, making it the third consecutive win for the group in the annual music competition.

Rhythm 'N Harmony, under the baton of musical director Paul Dujua, got the Judge's Choice award for High School Choir and much-coveted Sweepstakes Trophy. Dujua said the Sweepstakes plum is the highest overall award at the festival. The group also won the same award in 2012 and 2013—

See MHS on Page 4

## New Aetna rates 'not affordable'—Propst

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The new premium rates that plan holders have to pay Aetna Global are not affordable to most government employees, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said.

The government recently said it has renewed the Aetna Global agreement but will invite other proposals for 2016.

Propst said with the increased payments, even the "low-cost" option seems too high for most.

"As a family, we are currently paying about \$400 every pay period for the high option plan with a \$1,500 deductible. Now we will be paying \$821 per pay period, or \$21,346 per year (26 pay periods x \$821)," Propst said. "If we switch to the low option plan, it will cost

See AETNA on Page 4

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Cyclone Pam tears through Vanuatu, leaving a trail of destruction and deaths.

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### LOCAL

In far-flung US territories, gay marriage has yet to arrive.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Bearded Austrian diva Conchita Wurst is living her dream.

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## Local

# US govt, Tinian Dynasty agree to postpone trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. government and the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino have agreed to postpone the trial date and other pre-trial matters in connection with the criminal case filed against the company.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton, counsel for the U.S. government, and attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., submitted their agreement on Thursday, the deadline given by U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to Hong Kong Entertainment to decide whether or not to move the trial date.

The trial date is presently set for April 7, 2015.

Naughton and Berline asked the court to put off the trial to June 8, 2015, or later.

Naughton and Berline also suggested a schedule on the hearing for the pretrial motions.

At a status conference on Tuesday, Manglona ordered Berline to meet and confer with his client and submit in court Hong Kong Entertainment's decision whether to move the trial or not.

Manglona said the April 7, 2015, trial date would remain on the calendar unless an order removes it.

Assistant U.S. attorney Marivic David stated that it was still the status quo because the U.S. Department of Justice's Main Justice in Washington, D.C., has yet to decide on the settlement deal that the U.S. Attorney's Office and Hong Kong Entertainment have agreed to in principle.

The parties agreed to dismiss the case against Hong Kong Entertainment in exchange for the company's forfeiture to the U.S. government

of \$3.02 million, plus other terms and conditions.

David said the U.S. government did request for a longer continuance of the trial date, taking into account the multiple pending motions in the case.

The trial was supposed to start last Feb. 9, but the judge reset it to April 7 at the par-

ties' request.

Naughton told the court last Jan. 30 that although they have agreed in principle to the settlement, they are awaiting DOJ's final approval of the civil forfeiture amount.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment: one

count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment has also a notice of forfeiture.

## Tinian, Rota prepare emergency plans as Bavi nears

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
jayson\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Tinian and Rota were both fully prepared as Typhoon Bavi came closest to the islands yesterday evening.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig said his constituents are well prepared and are on standby.

He said they aren't taking any emergency measures yet due to it being tropical storm condition 2. However, the Aging Center in Sinapalo has been identified as an evacuation and emergency shelter.

"So far there is no disruption here and the airport is closed but all essential govern-

ment agencies remain open. We have only one evacuee so far and they are at the Aging Center," Atalig said.

He said that as soon as the typhoon intensifies, they would disseminate and start their emergency plans.

Meanwhile, the Tinian Mayor's Office has already activated its Emergency Operations Center as of 7am yesterday. Due to a power outage, the EOC was relocated to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

According to Tinian Mayor's Office liaison Eric San Nicolas, the EOC was organized and initiated since

Thursday.

San Nicolas confirmed that Tinian Elementary School has been designated as a typhoon shelter and currently has eight evacuees.

"The Tinian EOC involves the Mayor's Office and all departments on Tinian, including the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and is a collaborative effort to ensure safety for the municipality," San Nicolas said.

As Typhoon Bavi nears and intensifies, the shelter will be expecting more people and the EOC will be the point of contact for all and any emergency during the storm, he said.



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### \*\*\*AMENDED NOTICE\*\*\*

### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Monday, April 06, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2015, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director



# Navy vessel delivers supplies to the Northern Islands

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**  
jaysan\_camacho@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The USNS *Vadm K.R. Wheeler* delivered supplies to the Northern Islands yesterday, Sunday, according to Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan.

Supplies that were delivered included two 16-foot fishing boats for Pagan's

fishing community and some loose cargo such as food and building materials.

Aldan said the *Wheeler* left on March 14 before Typhoon Bavi closed in on Saipan and was expected to arrive yesterday morning on Pagan Island.

Aldan met with the *Wheeler's* captain, John Mansfield, on March 3 after giving Aldan

and his staff, Lorraine Castro, a tour of the ship. Mansfield told Aldan that they could distribute supplies to the Northern Islands since the *Wheeler* was heading north.

The *Wheeler* is designed to tow 1,000-foot long ships and has a firefighting capability with two fire monitors that pump 6,000 gallons of water per min-

ute. It is also equipped with five cranes, two twin jet drive launch boats, two amphibious boats, and a single jet drive boat.

Mansfield assured Aldan that *Wheeler* wouldn't have a problem making the trip, despite Typhoon Bavi already being felt in the CNMI.

Aldan said he was humbled and is grateful to Mansfield for

his assistance, considering the Northern Islands Mayor's Office's limited funds.

"I can't thank Capt. John and his crew enough in affording us this opportunity. The office would save a lot on the service that the *Wheeler* would be providing to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office and the residents of the Northern Islands," Aldan said.

"I am sure that the residents of the Northern Islands would truly appreciate the humanitarian assistance provided by Capt. John on the *Wheeler*. I also want to thank [Associate] Judge David Wisemen for introducing

me to Capt. John that initiated the conversation between him and Capt. John," he added.

Aldan also thanked Commander Robert Rochford of the MPSRON 3 squadron, where the *Wheeler* and *Fast Tempo* vessels are assigned.

"He was very supportive of this idea and backed it 100 percent and Rochford also wants to do what he can to assist all the people in the CNMI and forge good relations. Every help or any help that we get is a big help to us," he said.

Aldan hopes the partnership would continue whenever the *Wheeler* is on Saipan.

## Pena House burglar falls

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Police arrested Thursday night in Finasisu the man who was caught on surveillance camera burglarizing and stealing money and an iPad from the Pena House Dress Shop in Chalan Kanoa last week.

Mark Anthony S. Benavente, 34, was arrested for burglary and theft.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that several persons, including Benavente's family members and a former girlfriend, identified the person in the surveillance footage as the suspect.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on Benavente. Preliminary hearing will be on March 19 at 9am.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Benavente. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds represented the government.

Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer was dispatched last March 9 to a burglary and theft incident at the Pena House Dress Shop. A store clerk told the officer that someone broke into their back door by damaging the deadbolt and doorknob.

Once inside the store, the burglar forcibly opened the cash register and stole \$100 and an

iPad worth \$600 that belonged to the storeowner's husband.

Pangelinan said a review of the surveillance footage showed the burglar to be a skinny male wearing a pair of long pants, white T-shirt, and a baseball cap.

That same day, Pangelinan and another detective learned that the burglar was a certain Mark, who likes to ride a bicycle from Finasisu to Chalan Kanoa, wears a backpack all the time, and wears a hat.

Pangelinan said at 1pm that same day, while heading east on Elphedia Street approaching Ji Li Store in Chalan Kanoa District 2, she saw a man riding a bicycle who fit the description

of the burglar.

Pangelinan said she followed the rider and rolled down the driver's window and called him "Mark." When the man replied, "Yeah," Pangelinan asked if she could talk to him.

Pangelinan said the man, later identified as Benavente, turned his bike and fled toward an apartment and entered a backyard where she lost sight of him.

Pangelinan asked for assistance from Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation units as they canvassed the Chalan Kanoa area.

The detective said during her house-to-house canvassing, two couples identified the man in the photo as Benavente. She said a family member also identified the man in the photo as Benavente.

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## SHELTER

From Page 1

Airlines cancelled their flights, all seaports were closed to vessels, and recreational dive sites and beaches were closed until further notice due to strong currents and high surf. The Public School System will close all public schools today, Monday, and most private schools will also have no schools today.

As of press time, there was no report as to the extent of damage on Rota, where Bavi's center was expected to advance near the island last night.

As of 7pm, the center of Tropical Storm Bavi was only 20 miles east of Rota, 65 miles south of Tinian, 65 miles northeast of Guam, and 70 miles south-southwest of Saipan. Its gale force winds extend outward up to 200 miles northwest through northeast of the center and 40 miles elsewhere.

Packing maximum winds of 60 miles per hour, Bavi was moving west at 23 mph, according to the U.S. National Weather Service.

As of 8pm, tropical storm warning remained in effect for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Tropical storm force winds of 39 mph or greater are expected through early morning today.

Starting at 3pm, the skies over Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were already dark, as strong winds and heavy rains pounded the islands, rendering roads to almost zero visibility.

As of 5pm, the center of Bavi was 65 miles southeast of Tinian, 70 miles south-southeast of Saipan and 120 miles east-northeast of Guam.

As of 2pm, Gov. Eloy S. Inos maintained Tropical Storm Condition 1 for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota because of the anticipated threat.

### Emergency shelter

As part of the emergency operations, the government activated shelters for the three islands yesterday to allow residents to seek safer ground as the storm inched closer to the islands.

On Saipan, the shelters were the Kagman High School, Koblerville Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, Dandan Middle School, and Garapan Elementary School.

On Tinian, the designated shelter was the Tinian Elementary School, while on Rota the shelters were the Aging Office and the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Dandan Middle School vice principal Reo Arriola and maintenance worker Abel Valenzuela check the school's water pump after strong winds brought by Tropical Storm Bavi blew off its roof yesterday.

High School.

A visit to Dandan Middle School at 3pm showed that a portion of its steel fence at the main gate had been damaged by the strong winds. Winds also blew out the roof of the school's water pump.

Dandan Middle School vice principal and shelter manager Reo Arriola and maintenance worker Abel Valenzuela were assisting 19 people in the cafeteria, which was the designated evacuation center of the school because it is the only concrete room.

Arriola said that families started to arrive at their school at 1pm.

Jose Joseph, 56, of Dandan Homestead, was the first to go to the Dandan Middle School evacuation center. He brought his wife and a grandson to the school because their house is semi-concrete.

Joseph and his wife are regular evacuees at the Dandan school during major storms or typhoons.

As of 5pm, there were 60 who took shelter at the Koblerville Elementary School. No damage to school property was reported at this time.

### No classes

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan informed parents and legal guardians of students attending public schools that there will be no classes today, Monday, and there will be no work for PSS employees.

Grace Christian Academy on Saipan will also have no classes today, according to its principal Beth Ann Nunez.

Other private schools that have no classes today are Mount Carmel School, Agape Christian School, and Saipan International School. Other private schools did not notify the media about their plans.

After consulting maritime officials, Inos declared all seaports closed to vessels starting at 12pm yesterday.

Inos said they are following the necessary procedures in making sure that life and property are spared as the storm approaches.

"The proper officials are working with their crews in assessing all areas that need to be addressed, and, trust me, they are doing all they can to troubleshoot any areas that need attention. If you feel as if you need to vacate your homes for a safer roof, please prepare your families to evacuate," Inos said.

The governor also ordered the closure of recreational dive sites and beaches due to strong currents and high surf generated by Bavi.

The governor's office received information that some individuals were braving the dangerous sea conditions.

Marvin Seman, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management, said they received several calls about some houses being dam-

aged due to strong winds, and downed power lines.

Seman said they tried to discourage beachgoers from entering the waters because of the risk of being swept out by currents and waves.

Seman said the CNMI has been lucky so far that there were no reported storm-related injuries. He disclosed, though, that they received reports about some vehicles getting hit by flying debris and falling trees and branches on Saipan.

"With this storm, it was a very difficult to track as it kind of progressed and sped up every now and then," Seman said.

### Islandwide outage

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher said power was down island-wide and that outages started yesterday morning when feeders began going down.

Fletcher said they had their crews out restoring what power they can, but until winds subside "it's going to stay pretty spotty as for power supply."

Fletcher said it is hard to keep feeders up with the intense winds. He said crews believe that some of the power lines were touching each other due to the winds, causing them to trip feeders.

He said crews are fully staffed, with six operators at their call center in full emergency operation mode to get power restored islandwide.

On Rota, power appeared stable, Fletcher said, while on Tinian, the feeder was down and they were working to get it up.

He could not give an estimate on when power would be fully restored but assured that CUC has its entire staff out working and crews are on standby.

He disclosed that water supplies have also been affected.

"Water should be out for areas that rely on a pump. Other areas might last a while with water if they have reservoir. But if the power's out, those wells are going to be out," he added.

### Flights cancelled

United Airlines canceled all afternoon flights scheduled to arrive at or depart from Guam yesterday. The last departure from Guam was flight number UA196 or Guam to Tokyo/Narita that departed Guam at 12:40pm yesterday.

Cape Air/United Express also cancelled all flights scheduled to arrive at or depart from Guam yesterday and this morn-

ing, Monday.

United Airlines' customers ticketed on flights to, from or through Guam, may reschedule their itineraries in advance of the storm with a one-time date or time change, and the airline will waive the change fees.

Customers can find complete details, eligible travel dates, and updates at united.com.

A Delta flight set to arrive from Japan during the afternoon was also cancelled. The Narita flight attempted to land at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport but was unable to and had to return to Japan. Subsequently, its 4:20 departure flight was cancelled. Out of precaution, the flight had carried extra-fuel.

As of press time, Delta's morning flight arrival at 1:25 this morning was still scheduled. Its status would depend on

weather conditions.

According to flightstats.com, an Asiana flight set to depart at 3:20 was also cancelled.

### Red Cross ready

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said they are prepared and ready to provide assistance to Bavi's victims.

"Basically as the storm approaches the islands we are providing support on the emergency operations center and we're in contact with our volunteers on Rota and Tinian," Hirsh said.

He said they will follow up on those damaged houses and do an assessment on the residents and what the damage is and then they will proceed to provide assistance. *(With reports from Dennis Chan, Joel Pinaroc, and Jayson Camacho)*

## GCA

From Page 1

50 other student competitors.

"It felt great that all my studying paid off," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview. "I practiced two to three days a week with my coach since the beginning of February, but I also studied on my own and with my mom."

Calayo has participated in various spelling bee competitions for four years now. With her regional win, Calayo will represent the region on May 24-29 at the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Her mother, Des Calayo, was present at the competition to watch her daughter win the

regional tilt. Grace Christian Academy English and theology teacher Joanna Dubiel served as the student's spelling coach.

"Preparation for the regional bee consisted of significant study of word origins," Dubiel said. "We would then study orally, while creating written flash cards for missed words."

In preparation for the national competition, Dubiel explained that the student will broaden her studies to vocabulary, which will heavily focus on Latin and Greek roots.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee hosts over 200 spellers from eight countries to compete for the first place title every year. It is usually broadcast nationally by ESPN.

## MHS

From Page 1

making it three for three and a win for each time they've been joining the competition.

Miguel Aninon, under the MHS Glee Club, got the honorable mention for solo and was asked to join the festival's command performance.

Members for MHS Glee Club include Shaina Santiago, Joselle Reyes, Miguel Aninon, Jameson Lee, Riczi Cano, Diane Hermogenes, Leonard Manuel, John Huevos, Noel Jimenes, Annabel Manzo, Shandel Cayabyab, Anne M. Cruz, Ma Clarinda Catalma, Roland Balajadia, Neil Fama, and Paula Gozon.

The MHS Pep Band, meanwhile, got the silver award and MHS Chorale got gold and the Judge's Choice award for small ensemble.

MHS Chorale students also took part in duets, solos, and ensembles. The duet called Madri Girl's got the gold and received the Judge's Choice award for small ensemble. Justina Lee got honorable mention for piano. Five other individuals who performed solo got silver and another duet got silver as well.

MHS Chorale members include John Huevos (baritone), Lorenzy Leo (alto), Joselle Reyes (soprano), Paula

Gozon (alto, vocal duet), Justina Lee (soprano, piano), Ann Norcio (soprano), Rodileen Morales (alto), Kaela Valencia (alto), Roland Balajadia (baritone), and Miguel Aninon (tenor, vocal).

MHS Pep band members include Rebecca Albiento (bass guitar), Joyce Alfonso (trombone), Angela Aninon (piano), Jullianne Bigueras (drums), Marcy Ermitanion (trombone and "f horn"), Lester Garcia (lead guitar), Daniel Han (trumpet), Kathy He (clarinet), Diana Lopera (alto sax), Karl Marcellan (rhythm guitar), Noemy Pamintuan (trombone), Angelica Racelis (clarinet), Nickles Salmon (bass clarinet), and Nina Valerio (piccolo).

MHS vice principal Hazel Tudela noted that MHS will be bringing home the biggest trophies and most awards from the festival this year.

"Many of our students garnered gold and silver ratings on their performances. We want to say thank you to Paul Dujua, Harold Easton, Ruthi Fruit, David Frahm, MHS PTA, and all who supported and helped our students," Tudela said.

TBMF, which ran for eight days from March 7 to 14, invited students, musicians, bands, chorale groups, and instrumental players to Tumon, Guam to showcase their musical talents.

## AETNA

From Page 1

us \$485.65 per pay period, or \$12,626.90 per year (26 pay periods x \$485.65)."

The lawmaker said it will be difficult for most to get the new packages.

"How many families out there will be able to afford the high-option plan, let alone the low-option plan? I know we cannot," Propst said.

The lawmaker stressed that

by raising their premiums to an amount that is not affordable to most, Aetna has created what is known in the health insurance industry as a "death spiral," a term that refers to lower risk health insurance policy holders changing their coverage or choosing to become uninsured.

He warns that by Aetna doubling its premiums, "most healthy, young families are going to cancel their health coverage."

"And who is most likely to stay and try to pay these in-

sanely high premiums? Our *man'amko*. Our retirees. Why? Because they don't have much of a choice. Our elderly retirees tend to have more health problems, thereby costing Aetna more money," Propst said.

Aetna needs the younger, healthier families to help defray the high cost of health care for our elderly, he said. "But obviously, this is not going to happen, because the young and healthy members will simply cancel their coverage and risk not having any health care at all."

"When you are young and healthy, you don't think about the 'what ifs.' You think about the 'here and now.' And right here and now, Aetna's new health premiums are just not affordable," Propst said.

The lawmaker said "Aetna is only concerned with profit, not about our well-being," and that the bottom line is, the new Aetna rates will have a devastating effect on most families."

The Aetna insurance is not mandatory for government employees.



# Man indicted for allegedly hiding \$20K in luggage

A federal grand jury has indicted Delin Ma, a 52-year-old man who was arrested by federal agents at Francisco C. Ada International Airport after he was allegedly found concealing \$20,000 cash in his hand-carried luggage while bound for Shanghai, China.

The indictment charged Ma with one count of bulk cash smuggling out of the United States.

The indictment also seeks to forfeit the \$26,294 that was seized from Ma at the airport.

According to the indictment filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday, Ma hid more than \$10,000 in cash

in an article of luggage on Feb. 13, 2015, with the intent to evade currency reporting requirements and transport the cash to a place outside of the United States.

At a preliminary hearing last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy found probable cause to warrant the filing of a criminal complaint against Ma.

Kennedy ruled that the U.S. government had met its burden in establishing probable cause to charge Ma with bulk cash smuggling.

The defendant posted a \$10,000 secured bond for his temporary release.

Under the currency reporting laws, a person is required to report any amount of cash \$10,000 and over when traveling out of or into the U.S.

According to Homeland Security Investigations special agent Michael D. Lansangan, Ma declared a little over \$6,000 and a little over 1,000 Chinese RMB to him both verbally and in writing, by completing a Customs and Border Protection form.

Ma later allegedly admitted that the money was not his but belonged to a person named "Zheng Xiaolong" who owned "L&M Market."

According to Lansangan, Ma stated that the \$20,000 re-

trieved from his luggage was given to him by his boss, Shaorong Zeng, who operates the LN Market.

Ma stated that Zeng told him she had borrowed the money from a person in China named Maiying Xu and needed to pay back the loan.

Ma stated that Zeng told him the two envelopes contained a total of \$20,000, and told him to deliver the money to Xu at her house in Putian, China.

Lansangan said Ma stated that because he was scared of losing Zeng's money, or having it taken or stolen from him, he took the envelopes and hid them in his pants be-

fore packing them into his luggage.

Ma was supposed to board Sichuan Airlines flight 3U-

8648 that was scheduled to depart Saipan last Feb. 13 for Shanghai. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



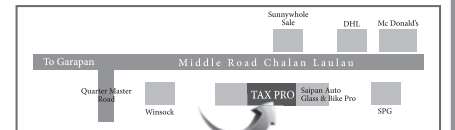
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**Kia Sedona LX** retail price \$30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$490.99 or \$226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$29,459.40.



# Quitugua joins call to stop lease of limited public lands

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Justo S. Quituga (Ind-Saipan) has joined the call to prevent the lease of public lands and instead prioritize private properties.

Quituga said he has filed a Senate resolution requesting the Department of Public Lands to “encourage new investors to

lease or purchase private lands before engaging in leasing public lands so that the limited public lands are reserved for home-steading programs.”

Quituga’s resolution, S.R. 19-05, said public lands are “diminishing” while privately owned lands in the Commonwealth are in “great abundance” and are sitting idle.

The senator hopes his reso-

lution can address the economic hardships of many local families due to the high cost of living, utilities and health care, and education.

While Quituga is offering an alternative for DPL, two lawmakers are directly urging the department to cease the lease of public lands.

DPL’s announcement that it is in talks with Best Sun-

shine International, Ltd. to lease 40 hectares of public land in Marpi drew strong reactions from lawmakers who are strongly urging Best Sunshine and the DPL to go for private lands, considering that some of the public lands eyed for lease are still occupied by residents and are being used for other purposes.

The Marpi land, according to

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), has always been home to historical shrines.

“Best Sunshine and the DPL should strike the right balance,” Benavente said. “What will happen to the local residents once these lands are leased?” He said there are some 6,000 residents of Northern Marianas descent who are in Marpi.

According to the lawmaker,

Best Sunshine should buy more private lands to help more members of the community. He also questions why DPL is eyeing 40 hectares of public land for Best Sunshine, which he said is “too big.”

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) echoed Benavente’s comments, saying DPL should stop “giving away public lands.”

## Bridge Capital sponsors Flame Tree Arts Festival, arts competition

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Bridge Capital is donating \$5,000 to support the Flame

Tree Arts Festival next month and is also sponsoring over \$13,000 in cash prizes for the 5th Annual CNMI Art Competition.

The \$5,000 check was presented and the competition announced during the Thursday night street market.

Bridge Capital chief asset

manager Allen Perez, chief operations officer Jody Jordahl, and office manager Reneacia San Nicolas met with Commonwealth Council for Arts and

Culture executive director Angel S. Hocog earlier to discuss the event.

On Thursday night, Hocog thanked Bridge Capital on behalf of the administration and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The last time Bridge Capital sponsored the competition was two years ago in the 2013 festival.

The competition categories are Best of Show, Paintings, Wood-Carving and Others, Photography, Texter’s Choice Award, Governor’s Choice Award, and Best New Artist

In 2013, entries were shown in an exhibit covering the entire Susupe basketball court. This year they intend to do the same. Winners will be announced on stage during the festival.

In an interview, Hocog said he is excited for Bridge Capital’s involvement this year as its sponsorship will result in more artwork being submitted as entries to the festival.

“During our event, I see a lot of people stop by the artwork

exhibit area. And they are always amazed to see hidden artworks that they haven’t been exposed to,” Hocog said.

Considering that next year is the biggest art festival in Guam, the Festival of the Pacific Arts, or FESTPAC, Hocog said the council is “re-thinking its expenses” this year to save up for the event, which has invited as much as 150 delegates from the CNMI.

“Considering the number of delegates to bring down, we need to really work hard financially to support the participation in Guam,” he said. “This year, we are bringing something new. But we are not as extravagant as before, when we had showcases for different countries.”

He said this year would be a normal event, but they’d “pump it up” with the island’s own local talent and people.

About 70-plus artists were a part of last year’s festival, according to Hocog. This, out about 90 booths and vendors, including food sellers, he said.



DENNIS B. CHAN

Bridge Capital presents a \$5000 check to the Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Thursday night market. In the photo, from left to right, are Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture executive director Angel Hocog, Bridge Capital’s Reneacia San Nicolas, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, CCAC’s Gloriana Teuira, Margaret Muna, Erica Trinidad, and Flame Tree Arts Festival chair Parker Yobei.



### MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Thursday March 19, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

#### MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes – February 6, 2015
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
  1. Finance
  2. Personnel
  3. Ad Hoc Committee
- 4) New Business
  1. Contract Renewal – Tourist Exit Survey
  2. FY 2015 Budget
  3. Employer Contributions of 4% on the Defined Contribution Plan
  4. China Ad Hoc Recommendations
    - a. Portable Restroom at Bird Island
    - b. Beach Party Festival
  5. Korea Ad Hoc Recommendations
    - a. Dongchimi Talk Show TV Filming FAM
  6. Russia Ad Hoc Recommendations
    - a. Billboards (Khabarovsk, Vladivostok and Sakhalin)
    - b. Radio advertisement (Khabarovsk, Vladivostok and Sakhalin)
    - c. Online Brochure (Russian language)
    - d. The CNMI Advertisement on concert tickets (Vladivostok)
    - e. Good Morning Russia TV Fam
  7. Japan Ad Hoc Recommendations
    - a. Marine Diving Fair
    - b. Ekiend Enduro Running Event
  8. Collaterals
    - a. Button Project
- 5) Old Business
  1. Email ratification
    - a. Offshore Marketing Budget for 2nd Half of FY 2015
    - b. FY 2016 Budget Call
    - c. Reallocation of \$100,000 from Russia budget to Korea budget
  2. Tinian & Rota Charter Flight Initiatives/Plans
- 6) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 7) Executive Session
- 8) Adjournment

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce  
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

### TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiuan  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TGCC) hereby gives notice that the Regular Meeting scheduled on Thursday, March 12, 2015, has been rescheduled to Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TGCC Conference Room.

#### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
  - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS<sup>1</sup>
- III. REPORTS
  - a. Chair’s Report
  - b. Executive Director’s Report
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a. Management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Amendment to Rules & Regulations for the Reporting & Proper Filing of Annual Audit, Other Reports, Suspicious Activity and Currency Transaction Reports by a Licensed Casino Operator
  - b. Policy & Procedure re Investigative Fees
  - c. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
  - d. Licensing Matters
    1. Casino Key Employee License Applications
    2. Casino Employee License Applications
    3. Hotel Registrations
    4. Casino Service Industry License Applications
      - a. Requests for Exemptions from Licensing
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION<sup>2</sup>
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
  - a. Adoption of Forms
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

<sup>1</sup> Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. at the Mayor’s Conference Room, 1st floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

#### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS<sup>1</sup>
- III. EXECUTIVE SESSION<sup>2</sup>
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Review & Approval of spring 2015, Academic Year 2014-2015 Scholarship Applicants (continuation)
  2. Start amendment on current policy (continuation)
  3. Disbursement schedule of spring 2015 recipients
- V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER
- VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/JULIAN U. HOFSCHEIDER  
Chairman

<sup>1</sup> We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

<sup>3</sup> Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

### SIDEBAR

## BRIDGE CAPITAL’S 5TH ANNUAL ART CONTEST \$12,500 cash prizes to be given out this year

Bridge Capital, LLC announced Friday that \$12,500 in cash prizes will be given out to this year’s art contest winners.

“We encourage all seasoned and aspiring artist to join the competition as every year this annual event continues to grow and provide our artists a perfect venue to showcase their talents. All entries will be exhibited at the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival for the public to view and appreciate. The awards ceremony will be held at the Flame Tree Arts Festival grounds on Saturday, April 25, 2015,” the company said in a statement.

The 5th Annual Art Contest awards and prizes are as follows:

- **Best of Show:** \$2,500
- **Paintings** (for ages 30 and above): 1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$1,500; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, \$1,000;
- **Paintings** (for ages 29 and below): 1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, \$500

■ **Wood Carving and Others:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$1,500; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, \$1,000

■ **Photography:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize, \$1,500; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, \$1,000

■ **Texter’s Choice Award**  
■ **Governor’s Choice Award**

■ **Best New Artist Award**  
Official rules and entry forms can be found at Bridge Capital, LLC’s website: [www.bccnmi.com/artcontest](http://www.bccnmi.com/artcontest).

Bridge Capital, LLC is an international investment banking and asset management company located in the CNMI. The company is involved in a wide range of community activities and makes significant contributions to non-profit and charitable organizations serving the islands. Bridge Capital strongly supports the development of our local artists and is committed to being a good corporate citizen and a partner in making the CNMI the best it can be. **(Bridge Capital)**



**COMMUNITY BRIEFS****KHS 'Partners in Print' on March 26**

The next "Partners in Print" for Kagman High School will be on March 26, from 5pm to 7pm in the library. There is an incentive for KHS parents to get involved. Every event a KHS parent attends—from progress report to PTSA meeting to Literacy Nights—earns that parent a raffle ticket to be placed in the end-of-the-year raffle. Grand prize is a flat screen TV! Raffle tickets cannot be purchased. Parents can earn them by participating in their teen's education. Start by attending this Partners in Print. (PR)

**Navy, Air Force****training at FDM, Warning Area 517**

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- March 16, from 10:30am to 8:30pm
- March 17, from 10:30am to 9pm
- March 18, from 10:30am to 8:30pm
- March 19-20, from 9am to 8:30pm

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 17-18, from noon to 8pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial

pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

**CCA board meeting on March 17**

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at [cca@ccamarianas.org](mailto:cca@ccamarianas.org) or [ccamarianas@gmail.com](mailto:ccamarianas@gmail.com).

The Survivor's and Caregiver's Support Group Meeting will be held on March 19, 2015, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. (PR)

**CUC: Limited water service for Kannat Tabla Tank service area**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform its water customers in As Terlaje, Chalan Lau Lau, Chalan Rueda, I Liyang, and Gualo Rai villages that due to the ongoing construction of the Puerto Rico water storage tank, water service to customers will be limited to early mornings daily until further notice.

The Puerto Rico tank is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion in late April 2015. The Kannat Tabla tank service area has been stretched to accommodate shortened water service to the Puerto Rico tank customers. In addition, the Kannat Tabla

tank service area now includes the village of Chalan Kiya, thus shortening daily water service due to high demand.

CUC's operation and engineering team is working on solutions to help extend water service to the affected areas by adding an additional submersible pump to the Isley Booster I station, which will then supply additional water into the Kannat Tabla tank.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. Direct inquiries to CUC's call center at (670) 664-4282 (4CUC). (CUC)

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# Curriculum sought for teachers' PD hours

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A Marianas High School teacher asked for clearer guidance on professional development and certification requirements for public school teachers at last Thursday's Board of Education meeting.

Physical Education teacher Jim Feger asked board officials to consider implementing a "curriculum guide" for teachers to help meet their 60-hour requirement for professional development each year.

BOE chair Herman Guerrero acknowledged his comments, referring his concerns to the Public

School System management.

"Teachers are required to have 60 hours a year to get their certification process. That's about equivalent to an AA [associate degree]. I'd like to see that it is a more structured curriculum," Feger told the board.

For example, he said, if he did certification classes for PE, he would like a curriculum laid out for him. "If I lack the hours required to complete your recommendations, then I'd be required to make it up on my own," he said.

He noted what appears to be a lack of documentation for his attendance at previous professional development sessions,

even as he claimed he has attended all of them.

"After I found out I had to prove [attendance]—I, myself and others—got very nervous. How are we going to go back a couple of years and prove we went to these different professional development [sessions]?" he asked.

Some teachers have been "scrambling around" looking at emails for proof, according to Feger. He said he understands the need for certification to meet accreditation requirements and the need to develop teachers professionally, but added, "that the process itself needs to be amended to have more structure."

In his written comments to the board, Feger said teachers are expected to have 60 hours of professional day classes each year, with 45 of those hours in their content subject area of teaching. PSS administrators are required to complete 120 hours a year of Professional Day classes, he said.

"But from what I have been led to believe is that PSS administrators such as principals and vice principals are, for a lack of a better term, under a structured curriculum implemented and recorded by PSS."

He noted he would like a "guidance system" that teachers could follow to complete their requirements. This "system" he said refers to "educational jargon" like "curriculum, goals, objectives, lesson plans, etc."

## Man survives deer attack in Guam

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—A 51-year-old Guam man says he survived an attack by a deer outside his Toto home.

*Pacific Daily News* reports Mike Cepeda was bandaged up when he visited the Guam Police Department in Hagatna to file a report about the Friday attack.

Cepeda says he went outside his home after his aunt called him about a deer in the yard. Cepeda says he was watching the deer, which had antlers, approach him when the animal went into attack mode.

Cepeda says the deer jabbed at his chest, threw him down and slammed him on the ground. Cepeda says he thought he was going to die.

According to Cepeda, a cousin rushed to the kitchen to get a knife and stabbed the deer, which ran off.

## NMC: Statements of account acceptable in place of 1098-T

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College continues to work on issuing out Form 1098-T to its students. Meanwhile, the college said, statements of account have been and will be accepted by the CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation as an acceptable substitute.

If eligible, students can use their 1098-T to avail of tax credits, tuition refunds, fee and tuition deductions, and other benefits for the educational costs they've paid out during a tax year.

The college said last week they continue to make the issuance of these forms a "top priority." They have never issued the forms in past years, according to college sources earlier.

The college said last week that statements of account are acceptable substitutes for these forms.

"The CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation has accepted these statements in the past and continues to accept statements in lieu of Form 1098-T this year as well," the college said.

NMC chief financial officer Tracy Guerrero said the college has already applied for a transmitter code from the Internal Revenue Service for these forms, and are "now waiting a response."

In order for NMC to issue Form 1098-T to students, the college first needs to secure this code, she said.

In addition, she said, they are required to use official IRS tax forms only, which is not available online and are only available in hard copies from the IRS.

The college has ordered the official 1098-T forms from the IRS.

"The college hopes to issue the Form 1098-T to eligible stu-

dents as soon as possible and is now awaiting a response from the IRS via mail, which often takes months," she said.

According to IRS, eligible educational institutions must furnish Form 1098-T or acceptable substitutes to students who have had out-of-pocket payments for "qualified educational expenses" such as tuition, fees, and books.

IRS guidelines also state that institutions do not have to furnish Form 1098-T for courses for which no academic credit is offered, even if the student is otherwise enrolled in a degree program; for nonresident alien students, unless requested by the student; for students whose qualified tuition and related expenses are entirely waived or paid entirely with scholarships; and for students whom the college does not maintain a separate financial account and whose qualified tuition and related expenses are covered by a formal billing arrangement between an institution and the student's employer or a governmental entity, like the Department of Veteran's Affairs or the Department of Defense.

Students or persons who can claim the student as a dependent may be able to claim an education credit on Form 1040CM or 1040A-CM, only for the qualified tuition and related expenses that were actually paid in 2014.

Individual students should consult with a professional tax preparer or see IRS Pub. 970, Tax Benefits for Education regarding any other questions they may have about educational tax credits or possible tax liability for grants and scholarships which may be considered taxable to the extent that they are not used for "qualified educational expenses," according to IRS.

**Robert Tenorio Torres**  
**Attorney at Law**  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**BANK OF GUAM,** ) **Civil Action**  
 ) **No. 14-0223**  
**Plaintiff,** ) **NOTICE OF**  
**vs.** ) **HEARING ON**  
**KIM EUGENE** ) **PLAINTIFF'S**  
**FORRESTER,** ) **MOTION FOR**  
 ) **DEFAULT**  
 ) **JUDGMENT**  
**Defendant.** )

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 31, 2015, at 1:30 pm a hearing will be held before Judge Camacho on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 27 day of February, 2015.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

By order of the court,  
GRANTED Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio

**TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, LLC**

Attorney-at-Law  
2nd Floor JET Bldg., Suite 204  
P.O. Box 502845  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Email: timothy@bellaslawfirm.com  
Telephone: (670) 323-2115

ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiffs

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**EFRAIN F. CAMACHO and,** ) **CIVIL CASE**  
**WILLIAM F. CAMACHO** ) **NO. 15-0028**  
**Plaintiffs,** )  
**vs.** )  
**ESTATE OF DOLORES DLG.** ) **NOTICE OF ORDER**  
**ATALIG** ) **TO APPEAR**  
**AKA DOLORES S. DELEON** ) **OR PLEAD**  
**GURRERO** )  
**AND DOES I-V** ) **7 CMC § 1301, 1302**  
**Defendants.** )

Based on an *Ex Parte* Motion for an Order to Appear or Plead pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301, by Plaintiffs, the court has entered an Order to Appear or Plead. Wherefore, any person or entity having any interest in the Estate of Dolores DLG Atalig aka Dolores Deleon Guerrero that desires to defend against this action brought against the Estate, must appear or plead, within twenty-one (21) days from the date that this Notice last appears in this newspaper. The failure of any party to appear or plead within this time period will result in the entry of Judgment for the Plaintiffs, granting the relief demanded by the Plaintiffs' in their Complaint.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537  
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE )  
SERVICES GROUP, INC., ) **CIVIL ACTION**  
 ) **NO. 13-0023**  
**Plaintiff,** )  
**-v-** )  
**ALFONSO R. DELA CRUZ,** )  
**Defendant.** )

#### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 19, 2015, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: that certain tract or parcel of real property situated in Dandan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, designated as part of Lot 029 H 01 (H-169), more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the corner which is designated as corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 47,973.113 meters North and 51,968.913 meters east of the Mariana Islands coordinate system of 1966. Thence S 46° 55' 43" E, 22.315 meters to corner 2; Thence S 43° 04' 17" W, 22.213 meter to corner 3; Thence N 46° 55' 43" W, 26.450 meters to corner 4; Thence N 48° 40' 00" E, 42.415 meters to corner 1, the point of beginning, subject to survey;

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of March, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**BANK OF SAIPAN** )  
**Plaintiff,** )  
**v.** )  
**RUDOLF W. LEIS and** )  
**HELGA G.G. LEIS** )  
**Defendants** )

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 14-0148

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Lot 012 J 17, (part of lot 012 J 06; part of original Tract 22723-A H 61), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 012 J 01, the original of which was recorded February 3, 1994 as Document No. 94-341 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.



**Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **Thursday, March 26, 2015, at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D' Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at 10:45 a.m.

Lau Lau Heights Property! 40 years remaining on leasehold for sale! Contact Micheline "Mich" Brel at 670-235-8060 or 670-789-0513 for more information! Don't miss out this chance to have an awesome oceanview home!

Name: Xu Zhang Yu  
P.O. Box 505659  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No. 285-6118

Pro se

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Xu Zhang Yu** ) **FCD PA**  
 ) **CIVIL ACTION**  
**Plaintiff(s).** ) **NO. 15-0113**  
**vs.** )  
**Yu Yan Feng** ) **SUMMONS**  
**Defendant** )

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Plaintiff(s), Xu Zhang Yu, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 505659, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for Filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 4th day of March, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court  
Commonwealth of the  
Northern Mariana Islands

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537  
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re Estate of ) **CIVIL ACTION**  
**GEORGE A. MANGLONA,** ) **NO. 97-1061**  
 )  
**Deceased,** )

#### FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property:

1. **Lot 002 T 22.** The Estate owns this lot, which contains an area of 1,448 square meters more or less, in fee simple. Title is subject to outstanding mortgages, the balances due on which are negotiable.  
2. **Lot 008 T 85.** This lot contains an area of 901 square meters. The Estate owns a leasehold interest in the lot, which expires on July 21, 2047. No further rent is due.

Both of these properties are situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. All sales are subject to court approval.

Preliminary title reports are available for inspection at the office of the undersigned, by appointment only.  
**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, April 10, 2015 at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of March, 2015:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F-0122

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



▲ A blessed birthday shoutout to a father-son duo, Mark and Kiku Hapdei! Love you both with all my heart and wishing you many, many happy years! With love, from Mom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 16th birthday to Leo Ray DLC. Sa-lalila! We hope you enjoy your day. Love, Lilly Sina and your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## RFP15-GOV-037



### Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The project Scope of Work will be available on or after **February 16, 2015** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **February 27, 2015** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked “**Construction Management/Contract Compliance**”, **RFP15-GOV-037**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., March 18, 2015 (CNMI local time)**.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

**ELOY S. INOS**  
Governor

**HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
Director of Procurement and Supply



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### CUC-IFB-15-005, Rev.1

#### W-4, W-5 AND W-6 SEWER LIFT STATION ELIMINATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project is composed of a Base Bid Items and 3 Additive Bid Items. The base bid consists of construction of a new lift station to replace the existing W-5 lift station; installation of new gravity mains from existing W-4 lift station to the new W-5 lift station, installation of force main from the new W-5 lift station to the nearby gravity sewer main, thereby eliminating existing sewer lift stations; installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFICI) products; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the W-4 generator building and appurtenances; demolition and restoration existing minor structures and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. Additive Bid No. 1 consists of archaeological and unexploded ordnance standby and monitoring services. Additive Bid No. 2 consists of a bar screen and appurtenances for the new W-5 lift station. Additive Bid Item No. 3 consists of the installation of new gravity sewer main and manholes from existing W-6 lift station to W-5 such that W-6 can be eliminated; demolition of the W-6 electrical building, new laterals, and the restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 350 calendar days from date of award of contract.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 27, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-005, Rev.1, W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 21, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent (15%)* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred percent (100%)* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred percent (100%)* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 2, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to John Riegel, Chief Engineer via email at [john.riegel@cucgov.org](mailto:john.riegel@cucgov.org) and Nicolette Villagomez, Junior Engineer, Water & Wastewater via email [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**ALAN W. FLETCHER**  
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Officer



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### WATER TASK FORCE

#### IFB15-GOV-040

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce and CIP-CDA (PL 17-90). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Construction of approximately 2,290 LF of 12-inch PVC, 9,560 LF of 8-inch PVC, and 2,540 LF of 6" PVC waterlines, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, blow-off valves, fittings and appurtenances.
- Install new service laterals and connect to existing water meter locations.
- Install gate valves, fittings, and connections to existing water mains at various locations.
- Abandon in-place of old PVC pipe.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving and concrete pavements.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Removal of temporary facilities and controls.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after February 23, 2015 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on March 6, 2015, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on March 5, 2015.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked “IFB15-GOV-040”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 25, 2015, and must be received no later than April 6, 2015. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, April 7, 2015. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on March 25, 2015.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Eloy S. Inos, Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### IFB15-GOV-053

#### Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after March 9, 2015.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. local time, March 20, 2015, at the CNMI Water Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, March 19, 2015, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked “IFB15-GOV-053”. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, April 8, 2015. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, April 8, 2015, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 8, 2015, and must be received no later than April 22, 2015. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, April 23, 2015. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on April 8, 2015.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS  
Governor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director of Procurement & Supply



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### University of Oklahoma racial incident shows we still have far to go

The 50th anniversary commemorations of the civil-rights march in Selma, Ala., reminded Americans of how far we have come in the battle against racism, and how far we still have to go. Just this week, the nation was rattled by an ugly example of the latter, as a video surfaced showing members of a University of Oklahoma fraternity singing in unison about its discriminatory practice of excluding African-Americans and even joking about lynchings. "You can hang 'em from a tree / But he'll never sign with me," they chanted. "There will never be a n-----r SAE."

The repercussions were satisfyingly swift and clear-cut. The university's president denounced the fraternity members, closed their house—while Sigma Alpha Epsilon pulled recognition from the chapter—and declined to offer them help in finding new accommodations.

Where the response might have gone a step too far was with the expulsion of two members who were identified as ringleaders. Though there is no defending the song or those who chanted it so gleefully, their right to do so is strongly protected.

As a public institution, it is particularly difficult for the university to limit student speech, because the Constitution forbids most government restrictions on speech. That is why, for example, the Supreme Court ruled in 1978 that neo-Nazis must be allowed to march in Skokie, Ill., which had a large Jewish population.

There are limits, of course. Courts have ruled that if racist or otherwise offensive speech threatens others—if African-American students had reason to fear for their safety as a result of the video—or disrupts the ability of a school to carry out its educational function, the university would be within its rights to expel the offenders. University President David Boren cited the latter, as well as the creation of a hostile environment, in ordering the ringleaders gone from his campus. But the threshold for disruption must be higher than simply causing discomfort or controversy. At this point, the video doesn't appear to meet that mark; if Boren thinks it does, he should provide a clearer explanation.

This case tests the limits of tolerance for defending hateful speech. Lynchings were still a very recent memory in the days of the Selma march: Nearly 4,000 African-American men, women and children were tortured and killed in frequently public, gleeful spectacles from Reconstruction to 1950. The non-profit Equal Justice Initiative hopes to place markers at these sites in 12 Southern states so that this memory is not lost.

Expelling the offending students might quiet things down more quickly at the University of Oklahoma. But that might not be the better outcome. The incident has revealed undercurrents of racism—Sigma Alpha Epsilon is now investigating reports of similar problems in other chapters, and minority students at the school are calling attention to less dramatic incidents of racial insensitivity—that should be examined and rooted out, rather than forgotten.

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## KNOW YOUR WHITE HOUSE SECRET SERVICE UNITS...



## TY FHB

I do not know what made me stick with FHB in Saipan since I used to bank at BoH in Guam, hanging on to FHB even after I moved to teach at one of China's northeast universities. The convenience of a checking account, an MC that accrued mileage, and accessibility online provided rationale, though having lived through the vicissitudes of credit cards I should have known better on the MC.

I arrived on island Sunday and on Monday the 9th I deposited cash to accounts at the Oleai FHB branch. I had China guests on island and I meant to show them around. FHB holds that a deposit before noon qualifies for credit that day so I took it for granted that both debit and credit cards would be available by the end of the day. Well, was I red faced all of Tuesday!

First, a tooth bridge done by Seventh-day Dental Clinic a few years back broke off a day before coming to Saipan. As soon as I got on island, I went in to have it repaired; a new brace or implant(s) were not within my \$ means. The cost of service to ensure that my right bite was not too compromised did not make me bat an eye but the MC was refused. I thought I had sufficient funds in the account without the cash deposit so it might have been just a matter of *pesetas*; without checking the Internet record, I pulled out the debit card and we were on our way.

We ate at a diner for its brand name value. Used to pictures of food in Chinese menus that look so sumptuous only to have a measly sandwich, the group expected the same at this global chain. Our jaws literally dropped to the floor upon seeing the quantity of food delivered from our one-dish-per-person order. The serving portions were humungous, which should not have surprised me given the prices.

A guest quipped that now he understood why so many people in the CNMI were size triple X triple L. The waiter commented that we must have gotten off some energy-draining tour for we appeared very hungry based on our order. But the MC went through and I thought we were finally in the clear.

It was the following day, Tuesday, that I was alerted to FHB taking until Wednesday to acknowledge a Saipan deposit on Monday because Hawaii was behind a day in calendar time. I have no qualms with that since it worked to my favor when it came to paying due accounts; it gave me a 20-hour reprieve.

But it was Tuesday, a good 24-hours since I deposited *cash*, already Monday in Hawaii but charges against the card were rejected. There was my three-day hotel bill denied payment. Then a stop at a utensil and furnishing store for the new apartment, like a toaster and rice cooker, and a hair blower and a portable butane gas stove like the one I used five years before (alarmed upon reading the instructions that it was not to be utilized in enclosed spaces

By **JAIME VERGARA**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at [pinoypanda2031@aol.com](mailto:pinoypanda2031@aol.com).



including the home or "it would kill you"). TG I am still alive but returned the item pronto!

Anyway, since the Century Hotel room for my guests was in my name, the desk was kind enough to defer the MC charges on my room until I checked the other room out. But Tuesday night, I desperately needed bottled water and groceries. For a bill of slightly under a hundred, the MC was denied. Ironically, splitting the charges between the debit and credit cards would have settled the matter.

I did not have anything against the French when I first discovered that FHB was not a Hawaiian-owned bank but instructed out of Paris. I am global who cares about global realities and as long as the French bankers serve Pacific islanders' interest, I raise no objections.

The Oleai branch has been friendly. In a time of instantaneous communications, however, FHB takes at least 48 hours to credit an account. I deposited cash again on the debit account Wednesday as advised, then transferred the amount to the credit card before noon to be credited the same day. I waited until Friday. Red face all over again.

Living in Saskatchewan, I supported the Quebecois when they were asserting their legal prerogatives in bilingual Canada. Crepes breakfast at Montmartre in gay Paree endeared the "frogs" (non-pejorative use here) of France to my heart and at FHB, my measly quarters when taken around the world in 48 hours do pick up a few pennies. I don't mind FHB doing that on my account but let me access it as well. Cash deposit after all is cash and should be instantaneous!

The grocery store cashier had a good sense of humor. I went back Wednesday night for essentially the same items that were returned to the shelves the day before and when I checked out, she looked me in the eye and said: "Sorry sir, but the charges were denied."

Then she cracked a smile before I turned livid, and said: "Just kidding!" I just found a friend!



# Confronting the Islamic State, this gruesome scourge, requires a new solution

**“W**e can gather that their state rejects peace as a matter of principle,” Graeme Wood writes convincingly at theatlantic.com, “that it hungers for genocide; that its religious views make it constitutionally incapable of certain types of change, even if that change might ensure its survival; and that it considers itself a harbinger of—and headline player in—the imminent end of the world.”

And this is the challenge the moderate world now must contend with as it sees its sons and daughters flocking, seemingly inexplicably, to take part in this ascendant and brutally focused quest, as Audrey Kurth Cronin puts it in Foreign Affairs:

“The group attracts followers yearning for not only religious righteousness but also adventure, personal power, and a sense of self and community. And, of course, some people just want to kill—and the Islamic State welcomes them, too. The group’s brutal violence attracts attention, demonstrates dominance, and draws people to the action.”

Some might think that the U.S. and our allies in the West and the Middle East have been drawn into a live-action, apocalyptic video game, given the Islamic State’s sophisticated penchant for social media and visual propaganda. But the horrors committed by the Islamic State—or ISIS, or those reprehensibly unremitting Islamist extremists—are, of course, all too real.

Just as President George W. Bush’s administration failed to see the 9/11 attacks on the radar, President Barack Obama’s administration failed to recognize the rise of the potent force we now know as the Islamic State, George Packer, of The New Yorker, reminded a Kansas City audience Thursday night. In late 2013, Obama, now infamously, told Packer’s boss, David Remnick, that the Islamic State was a mere junior-varsity player in the shadow of al-Qaida. Obama’s basketball metaphors would be tiresome if they hadn’t proved so dangerous.

“We were blind,” Packer said. “We did not know what was happening.”

Packer echoed the recent assessments by Wood and Cronin in attempting to put the Islamic State in context. That task is made much more difficult for a journalist like Packer, who values on-the-ground reporting and itches to get such a story “under my fingernails.” But he lives in the new reality where foreign correspondents are taken for ransom and beheaded.

The real wake-up call arrived last June when the Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the resumption of the caliphate that disappeared with the Ottoman Empire 90 years earlier. Amassing territory, oil fields, banks, corpses and subservient people in its path, this self-declared state sent shockwaves throughout the region and began to redefine and complicate America’s role and re-

**By STEVE PAUL**  
The Kansas City Star



lationships in the region.

Cronin is especially clear in drawing the distinction between al-Qaida’s brand of underground terrorism and the Islamic State’s grander ambitions. And she excoriated the fumbling U.S. efforts to treat them similarly.

The Islamic State faithful are now destroying ancient artifacts and continuing to kidnap, terrorize and kill Christians, Muslims and others who dare to believe in alternate visions of God and society.

To hear the likes of presidential candidate Scott Walker compare the Islamic State to the unions he battled in Wisconsin is to grapple with the kind of ignorance that has led the world to this place and will fail to lead the civilized world out of it.

Few are optimistic about the near term, but these level-headed observers agree that a U.S.-led ground war would only add fuel to the raging fire. The only real strategy, Cronin and the others contend, is to help Muslim allies in the region contain the Islamic State, to stop it from amassing more territory and to force it into a position where it collapses in on itself by failing to expand.

A very tall and sobering order.

# Again the GOP members of Congress fail leadership test

**I**t has become abundantly clear that the congressional Republicans’ depository of that precious commodity called leadership is on the verge of bankruptcy.

That was made even more evident this week by the action of a majority of GOP senators, at the beckoning of a naive freshman lawmaker from Arkansas.

They signed an open letter to the leaders of Iran in a blatant attempt to interfere in the negotiations between that country and the Obama administration regarding Iran’s nuclear program.

And that ill-advised action came on the heels of an appearance before a joint session of Congress by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu—at the invitation of House Speaker John Boehner without first consulting the White House—who condemned the talks with Iran and criticized the U. S. president for a deal that has not been made.

The intent of the sophomoric letter, with its overly condescending tone, supposedly was to give the Iranians a lesson on the American Constitution and an understanding that “(a)nything not approved by Congress is a mere executive agreement,” subject to be revoked by the next president or modified by another Congress.

The 47 signatories of that letter, like the House leadership that colluded with the leader of a foreign country, are co-conspirators in a concerted effort to sabotage the nuclear talks between Iran and a total of six nations: the U.S. France, Britain, Germany, China and Russia.

The detractors claim that their concern is protecting Israel, but in truth their feigned fear of Iran and its potential nuclear capabilities is designed for their own political purposes, giving their devoted base another boogeyman around which they can unite.

I had hoped that the senior senator from my home state of Texas, John Cornyn, would finally step up and show some true leadership, but he fell right in line with most of his colleagues.

To be commended for not signing the letter—and, therefore, demonstrating leadership, backbone and patriotism—are Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and six other Republicans: Lamar Alexander, Dan Coats, Thad Cochran, Susan Collins, Jeff Flake and Lisa Murkowski.

The letter’s author, Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, surely must feel empowered by his veteran colleagues in the Senate signing on to what Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid referred to as one of the Republicans usual “juvenile political attacks against the president.”

As Obama proceeds to strike a deal with the Iranians that would freeze their uranium enrichment program in exchange for lifting some economic sanctions against the nation, the opposition in this country has insisted on more sanctions and continues to threaten military action.

One of the major reasons Republicans have fought the president on this foreign policy matter is the same as their attacks on his important domestic initiatives like the Affordable Care Act: They are

**By BOB RAY SANDERS**  
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afraid it will work, and Obama will be credited for another great accomplishment, achieved not with their help, but in spite of them.

And, while these congressional naysayers and Netanyahu rail against Iran’s government and some of its former and current leaders, they forget that a large percentage of the Iranian people admire Americans and have long wished for their country to re-join the world.

Once Iran is again part of the community of nations—something the current negotiations can help make happen—it will be difficult for any leader or group of leaders to take it back in time.

That thought, of eventually normalizing relations with Iran and getting rid of the old boogeyman image, has to be a scary one for Republicans whose main political tactic has been giving their constituents something to fear.

# The problem in Ferguson is its cops—period

**N**o wonder Ferguson blew up last summer.

It was only a matter of time. The St. Louis suburb’s police force, inadequately trained, led by moral incompetents and largely ignorant of rudimentary constitutional concepts, was bound to touch off an explosion among the citizens it misrules.

That event was the killing of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old.

People can only take so much. “Oppression” is a loaded term, but I can’t think of a better word to describe the everyday relationship between the police and the population, laid out in shocking detail this week in a Justice Department report. The town’s government could be described, without exaggeration, as a strong-arm racket.

Dare to flinch in front of an officer and you’ll be arrested for resisting.

Question why you are being stopped, mouth off or display any anger and you’ll be tased.

Be the unlucky soul inside a vacant building when a crew of officers decides to pounce, and dogs may be ordered to bite and pull at your limbs. Even if you are a teenager who is just skipping school.

It’s all in the federal report on Ferguson. Its 102 pages are laden with anecdotes that conjure the bigoted policing of a bygone era—or, rather, an era we liked to think is bygone—a time when big-city cops and Southern lawmen alike enforced the law however they saw fit.

What mattered in the bad old days was preserving a social order in which white people were superior to black people. In Ferguson, money is the boss of the plantation. Police officers are on the streets

less to protect and serve than to fill the city’s coffers with money collected from fines. A system of government evolved to steamroll citizens, particularly poorer African-Americans, trampling their rights in a relentless drive to fund the budget.

The police, city hall and the courts act together in a finely tuned revenue machine. Racial and class prejudice grease the wheels. If you want to know what institutional racism looks like, Ferguson is a perfect case study.

Some officers, in interviews with the Justice Department, evinced a hazy grasp of the laws they claimed to be enforcing. Bedrock principles of policing, the constitutional necessities of reasonable suspicion and probable cause, are often cast to the winds.

The pressure on patrol officers to generate revenue for the city through traffic and pedestrian stops appears to be unrelenting. Police officers are instructed—ordered even—to write citations. The report cites an example where a promotion to detective was conditioned on generating citation revenue. The report cites evidence of city officials setting targets for the police chief—and of him pledging that his officers would do their part.

It became a sport. Police had contests to who could gin up the most citations in a single stop. Whether a given stop was constitutionally justifiable wasn’t really a concern.

Much of the hullabaloo over the death of Michael Brown and the ensuing riots revolved around the merits of the case against Darren Wilson, the officer who shot him. While not beside the point, those details can distract us from understanding why Ferguson erupted and why the protests spread nationwide. Elements of what troubles this small town are pervasive.

**By MARY SANCHEZ**  
The Kansas City Star



*Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star. Readers may write to her at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or via email at msanchez@kcstar.com.*

Good, conscientious people exist within bad systems. The Justice Department took pains to point out that it found police officers who had tried to complain, city workers who were dedicated and determined to be respectful of citizens.

Yet corrupt and powerful systems have a way of grinding those who challenge them into dust. The momentum is that strong. Changing the culture of Ferguson will be difficult even now that its misgovernment has been exposed. Change would be unthinkable if it hadn’t been for Brown’s death—and, more to the point, the outrage and protest that followed.

Nor would change be likely if the Justice Department hadn’t decided to shine a light on the powers that be in Ferguson.

There is a kind of American who sees angry black people on television, loudly—even rudely—recrediting against the police and concludes that they are to blame. Who thinks that black people’s problem with authority—not the authorities’ problem with them—is why we can’t find our way to a “post-racial” society.






To that person I say: Read the Justice Department report.

No one should be treated the way Ferguson’s citizens have been by their police. It’s unconstitutional, it’s inhumane and it has to stop.

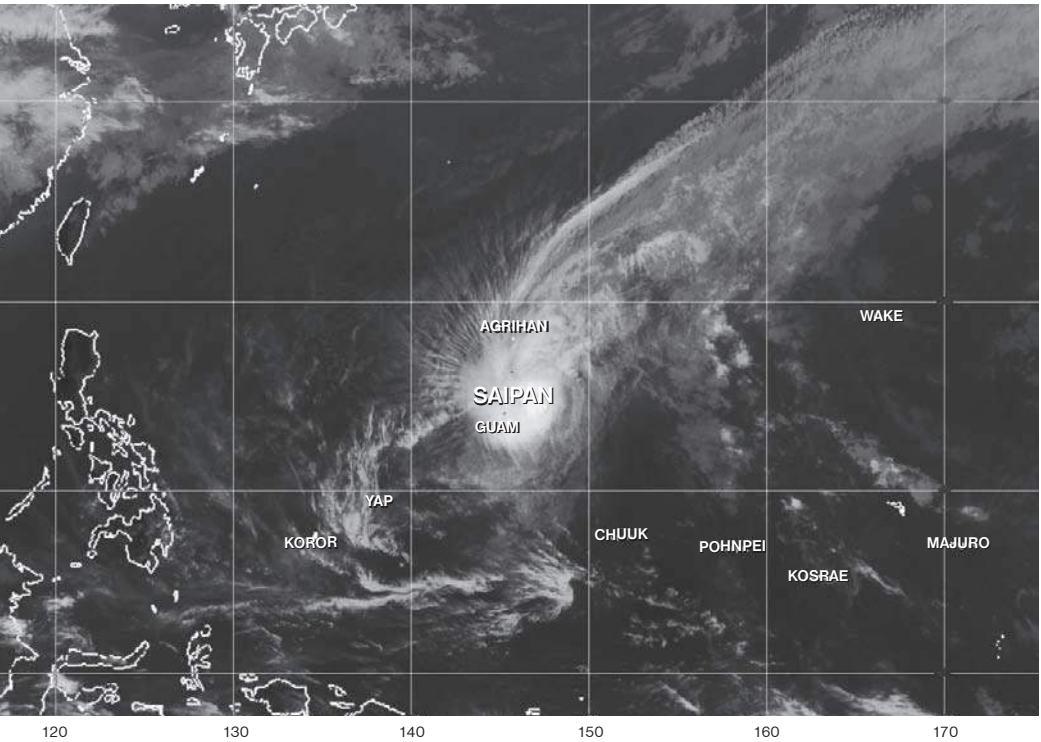


# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Mostly cloudy and windy with isolated showers in the morning. East winds 25 to 30 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

## Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Bavi (03W) is centered about 200 miles east of Guam near 14N148E moving west-northwest at 18 mph with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 150 miles of 14N147E. Scattered showers are found beyond 150 miles up to 400 miles of the 14N147E. For more information on Tropical Storm Bavi, refer to warnings issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Converging southeast winds east of Bavi are generating scattered showers north of Pohnpei between 18N and 9N from 153E to 159E. A shear line extends southwestward from 25N164E to 17N151E. Extensive cloudiness are found along and up to 500 miles northwest of this boundary. Scattered showers extend along and up to 250 miles northwest of the shear line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Rain	▲83	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Rain	▲70	▼63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼41
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼67
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼66
London	Showers	▲52	▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼65
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼69
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼70
New York	Windy	▲51	▼35
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼48
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼38
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼42
Rome	Showers	▲62	▼54
Salem	Showers	▲58	▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼37
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼49
Washington, DC	Windy	▲57	▼38



### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
5:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:25 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:24 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:24 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	2:26 AM	2:15 PM
Tuesday	3:20 AM	3:16 PM
Wednesday	4:13 AM	4:17 PM
Thursday	5:05 AM	5:19 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:20 PM

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

## ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



# Vanuatu struggles to account for cyclone damage, deaths

**CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand** (AP)—Officials struggled on Sunday to determine the scale of the devastation wrought by a monstrous cyclone that tore through the tiny South Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu, with death counts varying in the single digits but expected to rise once communications are restored with outlying islands.

Packing winds of 270 kilometers (168 miles) per hour, Cyclone Pam tore through Vanuatu early Saturday, leaving a trail of destruction and unconfirmed reports of dozens of deaths.

Paolo Malatu, coordinator for the National Disaster Management Office, said two people were confirmed dead in the capital, Port Vila, with another 20 injured. Earlier, Chloe Morrison, a World Vision emergency communications officer, said Vanuatu's disaster response office told her agency that at least eight people died. She had also heard reports of entire villages being destroyed in more remote areas.

The confusion over the death count is largely due to a near-total communications blackout across the country. With power lines and phone circuits down, officials in the capital had no way of knowing what the scope of the damage was on the outer islands, where the storm scored a direct hit.

"We haven't been able to communicate outside Port Vila," Malatu said. "At this point, the damage is severe and we haven't had figures of how many houses destroyed. ... It's really bad, it's really bad."

Officials were planning to



AP  
In this image provided by UNICEF Pacific people scour through debris damaged and flung around in Port Vila, Vanuatu, Saturday, March 14, 2015, in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam.

head to the outer islands in helicopters, small planes and military aircraft on Monday to get a better sense of the destruction, Malatu said.

The government declared a state of emergency across the country and Australia and New Zealand sent in relief supplies. The damaged airport was closed for commercial flights, but the first delivery of supplies arrived

Sunday from the Red Cross, Malatu said.

"People are really upset and it's really hard, just because for the last couple of years, we haven't received a really big cyclone like this one," said Isso Nihmei, Vanuatu coordinator for the environmental and crisis response group 350. "Most people right now, they are really homeless."

He came upon one of the

storm's victims on Saturday, while surveying the damage along the coastline with other relief workers. The group spotted a man lying on the ground, not breathing, and rushed him to the hospital. By the time they arrived, however, he was dead, Nihmei said.

Structural damage across Port Vila was extensive, Nihmei said, with the majority of homes severely damaged or destroyed.

Some residents began cleaning up what was left of their wrecked houses and checking on family members. Relief workers, meanwhile, were trying to get temporary shelters to victims as fast as possible, Nihmei said.

Residents awoke to much calmer weather Sunday after many hunkered down in emergency shelters for a second straight night.

Many people who have ventured out from 23 emergency shelters around Port Vila have found their homes damaged or blown away altogether, Morrison of World Vision said. Teetering trees and downed power lines have made parts of the capital hazardous.

She said communications have been so problematic that her aid group hasn't yet been able to account for many of its own 76 staff members on the islands.

For anybody who wasn't in a secure shelter during the cyclone "it would have been a very, very tough time for them," she said.

Vanuatu has a population of 267,000 spread over 65 islands. About 47,000 people live in the capital.

UNICEF estimated that 54,000 children were among those affected by the cyclone.

The small island nation, located about a quarter of the way from Australia to Hawaii, has repeatedly warned it is already suffering devastating effects from climate change with the island's coastal areas being washed away, forcing resettlement to higher ground and smaller yields on traditional crops.

Scientists say it's impossible to attribute single weather events like Cyclone Pam to climate change.

The cyclone has already caused damage to other Pacific islands, including Kiribati and the Solomon Islands. Authorities in New Zealand are preparing for Cyclone Pam, which is forecast to pass north of the country on Sunday and Monday.

## Lions Club officials get update on Saipan clubs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local Lions Club members treat Lions Club International Global Membership Team area leader Datuk Nagarathnam and Lions Club International District 204 governor-elect Daniel Yang to a meal at the World Café of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local Lions Club officials meet the two visiting officials at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

Lions Club International Global Membership Team area leader Datuk Nagarathnam and Lions Club International District 204 governor-elect Daniel Yang recently visited Saipan to meet with the club's Region 2 officers as well as members of the of Saipan Unity Lions Club.

Nagarathnam is the past district governor of the Orient and Southeast Asian Lions Club, while Lions Club International District 204 is comprised of Lions clubs in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and Federated States Micronesia.

The meeting where Nagarathnam and Yang were special guests was held last March 9 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa. The purpose of the two officials' visit is to touch base with the three Lions Clubs on the island: the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, and Saipan Unity Lions Club.

"They wanted to know how we are doing, our upcoming projects for the community, and how they can help us with all our future projects," said Region 2 chair Ladyvir Canape.

She said Nagarathnam and Yang's trip was a short one, leaving no time to visit the Tinian Marianas Lions Club and the newly chartered Rota Marianas Lions Club.

Despite the short visit, Canape said the local Lions clubs were glad to host the two officials.

"We are happy with their visit and was able to discuss some matters about the clubs and how we can do more when it comes to community service. As the saying goes, 'Keep the fire burning' to all the members."

Canape added that as Lion members, they have a lot of things to learn about the club—it's history and how they can apply to their own lives the club's motto: "We Serve."

"As the biggest organization worldwide, we should serve with pride and dignity," said Region 2 PRO Annamae Adaza.

She added that Region 2 will be informing the public about their future projects and make sure that these will all be beneficial to the community.

Those who are interested to become Lion members may call Canape at 989-2545 or Zone chair Mario Mayuga at 285-1021. (PR)



# Coast Guard searching for overdue fishing boat near Majuro

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard is searching for an overdue 82-foot commercial fishing vessel near the Republic of Marshall Islands, Friday.

Fishing vessel *Clear Water 02* reportedly went missing with nine people aboard while en route Majuro for offload, Thursday.

At 5:26pm Thursday, watchstanders at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu received notification from the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Majuro after the vessel failed to return to port as scheduled.

*Clear Water 02* is a Federated States of Micronesia-flagged vessel with one Marshallese and eight Chinese nationals aboard.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew launched from Coast

Guard Air Station Barbers Point at 8:39pm Thursday.

The HC-130 crew arrived on scene at 4:30am Friday, conducted track line searches totaling

391 miles and deployed two self-locating datum marker buoys.

Watchstanders at the JRCC used data gathered from the SLDDBs and

the search and rescue optimal planning system to calculate the search area. SAROPS is a software system that uses simulated particles generated

by users in a graphical interface. These particles are then influenced by environmental data to provide information on search object drift. Using information



This image is of 82-foot fishing vessel *Clear Water 02*. Coast Guard aircraft and good Samaritan vessels are searching for the vessel and its nine crew members after it failed to return to port.

U.S. COAST GUARD COURTESY PHOTO

## Cyclone Pam: SPC on standby to assist Pacific Islands

» **Stark reminder of vulnerability of Pacific Islands as world meets in Japan to decide on new global framework for disaster risk reduction**

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—With the extent of the impacts of tropical cyclone Pam on Pacific Island nations not yet known—and indeed still unfolding—the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is on standby to provide technical assistance to the affected countries.

SPC Director-General Dr. Co-

lin Tukuitonga said SPC is ready to deploy teams to Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and the Solomon Islands, depending on the governments' needs in the wake of the severe tropical cyclone.

Tukuitonga yesterday wrote to Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office to offer SPC assistance, given the great-

est impact of the cyclone is expected to be felt in Vanuatu.

With the world's governments currently meeting in Sendai, Japan, to approve a new global framework on disaster risk reduction, Tukuitonga said Cyclone Pam was a stark reminder of how highly vulnerable to natural disasters Pacific Islands' populations and economies are.

"The Secretariat is keeping a very close eye on developments and the path Tropical Cyclone Pam is taking," Tukuitonga said.

"As has been SPC's longstanding practice, we are ready to deploy disaster response teams to reinforce government capacity in National Disaster Management Offices and provide a range of technical assistance based on the governments' specific needs, and in concert with the United Nations and the Red Cross.

"If necessary we will recall our disaster management experts who are currently part of the Pacific delegation participating in the UN Confer-

ence on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan.

"The Pacific Community is close-knit and our thoughts and prayers are with the governments and people of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu," Tukuitonga said.

In an SPC video message released for the world conference—[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYYRHPLdX3Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYYRHPLdX3Y)—the Director-General appealed for stronger action: "Whatever form a post-2015 framework takes, it's important that the world community adopts a stronger approach to disaster risk reduction." (SPC)

## Guam gets \$600K for wind turbine project

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced Friday nearly \$600,000 in grant assistance to the Guam Power Authority through the Office of Insular Affairs' Empowering Insular Communities Program to complete the Guam Wind Turbine Pilot project. This grant supplements \$1.5 million previously awarded by OIA and the project

is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2015.

The grant supports an ongoing pilot project to install a 275-kilowatt wind turbine in Cotal, Guam, in the center of the island, and helps the Guam Power Authority comply with local legislation promoting the development of renewable energy. The grant also assists Guam by providing opportunities to partner with local

educational institutions in developing technical trades in support of sustainable energy technologies in the region and serve as a "field classroom" to support future curriculum development and technician trades in wind energy.

"The goal of this wind project is to help reduce Guam's dependence on imported fossil fuels and diversify Guam's energy supply," said Kia'aina. "We are

pleased to help the Guam Power Authority gain experience in managing the construction, operation, and grid interconnection of wind turbines now and for determining the viability of larger scale wind turbine projects in the future."

Guam Power Authority estimates that this wind turbine will reduce carbon emissions by roughly 578,400 pounds per year, contributing to the global fight to reduce greenhouse emissions in the face of

climate change.

The Office of Insular Affairs recently completed an extensive permitting and environmental review process for the project that included careful consultation with various local and federal environmental agencies. The wind turbine will be interconnected with Guam's electrical distribution grid and have a tilting system to allow the turbine to be lowered and secured in the event of typhoon conditions. (OIA)

## New report highlights Pacific progress toward gender equality

NEW YORK—As the world marks the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the international roadmap for gender equality, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is proud to release the Pacific regional report on progress made since 1995.

Launched overnight at a side event during the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, the Beijing+20 report is one of the most significant reports released in recent years highlighting progress and setbacks in 16 Pacific Island countries and territories.

In his foreword to the report, the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Enele Sopoaga, points out that the Pacific Islands region cannot afford to miss out on women's

contributions, particularly in areas such as climate change adaptation.

"If half of our population is held back by discrimination and human rights violations, our preparedness and resilience to environmental degradation are seriously jeopardized," the prime minister said.

The report is a compilation of the national review reports on Beijing+20 produced by the 16 Pacific Island governments and was prepared by SPC in conjunction with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and UN Women.

Significant breakthroughs for Pacific Island women include ending the silence on violence against women and girls, increasing their access to justice, and opening dialogue at the re-

gional level and in countries on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

"The effects of these reforms on the advancement of Pacific women is evident in a variety of contexts and is demonstrated in many ways, including in their contribution to culture and science, their economic dynamism and leadership in communities," SPC Director-General Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said.

"Despite this, the fact is that in the Pacific we still have a long way to go and this new report reveals mixed progress and some areas of deep concern," he said.

The region has also made progress in offering equal access to education for boys and girls and better access to health services.

However, 12 critical areas of concern identified 20 years ago in Beijing are still priorities and should be maintained at the forefront of the global, regional and national development agenda.

For example, women's access to paid work is still highly affected by discriminatory practices, traditional beliefs, and economic structures. Women's labor force participation has in many cases declined rather than improved in the last decade, by as much as 30 percent.

Women's political representation in the Pacific Islands region is the lowest of any global region. Despite progress made over the last two decades, a lack of sexual education and access to contraception and exposure to unwanted or abusive sexual relationships account for high

levels of teenage pregnancy in the region.

Speaking at the launch, Samoa's Minister of Women, Community and Social Development, Tolofuaivalelei Falemoe Leiataua, called for renewed commitment to gender equality in Pacific Island countries and territories as part of meeting development challenges.

"We ought to renew our commitment and refocus our efforts to ensure that our women and girls enjoy their human rights and have improved quality of life as members of society today, tomorrow and in the future ahead of us."

The report Beijing +20: Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island countries and territories is available on the SPC website: <http://goo.gl/yE6Fi4>. (SPC)

on a point of origin and local currents, it calculates the most likely area to find a person or object in the water.

Six good Samaritan vessels are also assisting in the search.

On-scene conditions are six foot seas and 20 mph winds. (USCG)

## Honolulu resto to return \$57K to 68 employees

Paradise Inn Hawaii LLC, doing business as Tsukiji Fish Market Restaurant at the Ala Moana Shopping Center in Honolulu, has agreed to pay all the tips owed and back wages due its workers, totaling more than \$57,000. The company also agreed to change their current policies to ensure future compliance.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor investigation results, the employer unlawfully required servers to share their tips with non-tipped employees while still paying those servers an hourly wage less than the full minimum wage. In most states employers only have to pay tipped workers a lower, so-called "tipped minimum wage" that—when added to tips left by customers—must equal at least the full minimum wage. Because the servers at Tsukiji Fish Market Restaurant were required to contribute their tips to an illegal "tip pool" for all of the restaurant's workers, the employer's ability to claim a tip credit was invalidated. Investigators from the Wage and Hour Division's Honolulu District Office found that 68 employees were owed \$48,029 in tips and another \$9,538 in back wages for minimum wage violations.

According to Labor, tips are the property of the employee whether or not the employer has taken a tip credit. The employer cannot use an employee's tips, whether or not it has taken a tip credit, for any reason other than as a credit against its minimum wage obligations to the employee, or as part of a valid tip pool.

"Employers cannot take a lawful reduction or credit against their obligation to pay the federal minimum wage to servers while unlawfully requiring them to share their tips with traditionally non-tipped employees such as assistant managers and dishwashers," said Terence Trotter, the division's district director in Hawaii.

For more information about federal wage laws administered by the Wage and Hour Division, call the agency's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Information also is available at <http://www.dol.gov/whd>. Information about the tip credit and tipped workers can be found here <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs15.pdf>. (USDOL)



# In US territories, gay marriage has yet to arrive

By DAVID CRARY  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

While more than 70 percent of U.S. states now allow same-sex marriage, the waves of change have yet to reach America's far-flung and socially conservative territories in the Caribbean and Pacific.

Of the five territories, only Puerto Rico has faced a lawsuit seeking the right for gay and lesbian couples to wed, and a federal judge there—bucking the trend in federal courts on the mainland—rejected the suit. That case is under appeal before the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

In the other four territories—the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Marianas—no gay or lesbian couples have stepped forward to make a legal case for marriage rights, according to advocacy groups monitoring the situation.

The five territories would be covered by a possible U.S. Supreme Court ruling establishing a constitutional right for same-sex couples to wed, notes Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, an attorney with the national gay-rights group Lambda Legal. Several same-sex marriage cases from the mainland are before the high court this spring, and a ruling is expected by the end of June.

Gonzalez-Pagan said he hoped same-sex couples in the territories would step forward to seek marriage rights.

"No matter how big or small the population might be in any one of these territories, or the fact there's vehement opposition in them, it doesn't mean any citizens should be left behind," he said. "All of them have a fundamental right to marry. They're all entitled to equal protection."

The only pending territorial lawsuit involving gay marriage was filed in Puerto Rico last year by five couples—two who are seeking to marry in Puerto Rico and three who live on the island and want recognition of marriages that occurred elsewhere.

In October, U.S. District Court Judge Juan Perez-Gimenez upheld Puerto Rico's ban on same-sex marriage, saying voters and legislators, not judges, should decide the issue.

On the mainland, four U.S. circuit courts of appeal have ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, while one—the 6th Circuit—upheld the laws in four states that prohibit it.

Lambda Legal is now appealing Perez-Gimenez' ruling before the 1st Circuit; no date for oral arguments has been set.

Among the plaintiffs are Johanne Velez Garcia and Faviola Melendez Rodriguez, who have been a couple for six years and married in New York in 2012. They have been trying to adopt a child for several years, and believe their efforts have been thwarted because Puerto Rico does not recognize their marriage.

Velez, a 50-year-old attorney and consultant, said she's optimistic that the Supreme Court will rule in favor of same-sex marriage and thus nullify Puerto Rico's ban. Meanwhile, she has been heartened by the support of family and friends as the lawsuit proceeds.

"When the news came out that we were filing this case, Faviola and I were a little apprehensive," Velez said.

"But what we received were positive comments, expressions of love and support even from acquaintances who, due to religious reasons, might not be too happy about what we were



AP  
This June 2014 photo provided by Lambda Legal shows Faviola Melendez Rodriguez, left, and Johanne Velez Garcia of Puerto Rico.

doing," she added. "Even those people understand we are fighting for our rights."

However, the leader of the conservative group Puerto Rico for Families, pastor and physician Cesar Vazquez, says he and his allies will be dismayed if the Supreme Court decides to legalize same-sex marriage.

"It doesn't mean we have to approve of it, and it doesn't mean we can't keep educating people," said Vazquez, who expressed concern that schools might be required to teach children that same-sex marriage is "a valid alternative."

In the other Caribbean territory—the U.S. Virgin Islands—there is strong opposition to same-sex marriage from leaders of various Christian denominations. A member of the territory's Senate riled some of those leaders last year by drafting a bill that would have legalized gay marriage, but the bill has not advanced.

In the western Pacific territory of Guam, where more than 80 percent of the resi-

dents are Roman Catholic, the church helped defeat a bill to recognize same-sex unions in 2009. It was introduced by the vice speaker of the territorial legislature, Sen. Benjamin Cruz, who is openly gay.

Cruz said he tried to find gay couples willing to campaign publicly for same-sex marriage, but only one couple stepped forward, and he's now ceased his advocacy efforts.

"Why should I be the only one that gets the nasty stares in church?" he asked.

Several gay couples have gone off-island to marry, but their unions are not recognized when they return to Guam even though they enjoy federal benefits, such as filing joint tax returns.

Joseph Querimit, 32, and Simon-Joseph Querimit, 31, flew to Hawaii to marry in April 2014; they are now raising an 8-year-old child.

Joseph said he would have preferred to marry on Guam, "but I didn't want to face all the ridicule."

"Born and raised on Guam, being Catholics, the upbringing, it's just not something you would go out there and flaunt," he said.

A lesbian couple—Dausha Magalhaes, 30, and her wife, Richelle, 32—have lived on Guam since April 2013, shortly after they were married in Massachusetts, and find the island more welcoming than parts of Texas where they once resided.

"We don't have to be scared if we want to hold hands," Dausha said. "We do not get stared at or gawked at, and I have not once felt like a social pariah like I do back home."

The other two Pacific territories—American Samoa and the Northern Marianas—do not recognize same-sex marriages even though they have no formal ban. American Samoa's Office of Vital Statistics said it has not received any request from same-sex couples seeking a marriage license, and local lawyers have not taken up the cause.

Galeai Tu'ufuli, one of American Samoa's paramount traditional chiefs and a member of territorial Senate, said he is neither for nor against gay marriage, but cited prevailing religious views that a marriage should be between a man and a woman.

"Why test the waters now by introducing legislation to deal with this issue?" said Tu'ufuli. "Time will tell when and if this issue surfaces in the future."

Christian churches with conservative social views predominate in American Samoa, and the government's motto is, "Samoa, Let God Be First." Yet the territory also has a tradition of embracing its community of fa'afafine—males who are raised as females and adapt feminine traits.

Many of the fa'afafine are college-educated and hold professional jobs. Some older members of the community have cautioned against joining in same-sex marriage advocacy for fear of roiling the status quo, while some younger members have chosen differently.

"I joined the minority in pushing for same-sex marriage and for equal rights for happiness," said 29-year-old Princess Auva'a, a well-known fa'afafine.

Together, the five U.S. territories have almost 4 million residents—more than 3.5 million of them in Puerto Rico. As of the 2010 U.S. census, Guam had 159,358 residents, the U.S. Virgin Islands 106,405, American Samoa 55,519 and the Northern Marianas 53,883.

## NHK show filmed in NMI to premiere on April 1

An English-education program produced by Japan's largest broadcast organization and filmed on Saipan and Tinian premieres in April 2015. The show features Japanese actress Yuka Nomura

and local talent.

The 5-minute program, *Otona-no Kiso Eigo*. (Basic English for Adults), by NHK Educational will air Monday through Thursday over three months to an estimated

2.6-million viewers across Japan. Through this mini-drama series, NHK will also introduce the natural beauty of the Northern Marianas and activities that tourists can enjoy.

"The estimated exposure value from this NHK series is estimated at over \$3 million, due to the large audience NHK reaches," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce

Bateman. "This show will be an important reminder of our destination to Japanese viewers throughout the three month viewing period."

Sites to be featured include Managaha, Mariana Resort & Spa, Mt. Tapochau, Forbidden Island, Kalabera Cave, Tank Beach, Paupau Beach,

House of Taga, Garapan Street Market, Sabalu Market, Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center, I Love Saipan, ABC Store, Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport, and local residences.

The program will run through June 30, 2015. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese actress Yuka Nomura, right, films a scene from NHK's *Otonano Kiso Eigo* (Basic English for Adults) at Tank Beach on Saipan in January 2015.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, musician Nolas Kaliga, actor Frankie Limes, and actor Markel Toves will appear in NHK's *Otonano Kiso Eigo* (Basic English for Adults) beginning April 1, 2015.



# PSS aims to hire college interns to boost teacher recruitment

By DENNIS B. CHAN  
dennis\_chan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System aims to keep in touch with its best-and-brightest students who are in college off-island, with a new recruitment outreach effort using social media.

Described as an “alternate pathway” to recruitment efforts, PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburg and Human Resources director Cindy Deleon Guerrero described the launch of this new alternative media recruitment method in the works at last Thursday’s board meeting.

College students and potential PSS teachers will be actively recruited through Twitter, Insta-

gram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, according to Deleon Guerrero.

Thornburg said they have begun the process of planning and are near implementation of the program, where they will “utilize some federal funds creatively to hire college students on a part-time basis” to help recruit students off-island.

He said ideally, they would have these students on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

“What we’re going to do is a complete listing of all our scholarship students, and then have our interns make those contacts through whichever method works most successfully with each one of these students,” Thornburg said.

The interns, he said, would reach out and talk about opportunities that public education can afford them to “come back home.”

He said the average college student graduates with over \$29,000 in student loans, and described a loan forgiveness program at PSS that may be attract these students back.

Thornburg said for the first four years, you pay the loan “with no interest, the principal remains stagnant.”

“Then at the end at five years, you get the loan forgiveness,” he said, explaining that Department of Education studies show that “if you keep a teacher for five years, there is a 65-percent chance that you

keep them for 20 years.”

He said their hope is to have “constant contact” with off-island students so they don’t take jobs elsewhere.

“As we know it takes a while to get a contract from PSS, so if you have the constant contact, the hope is we won’t lose the teachers who want to come,” he said.

The interns will keep in touch with all listed students who go to college to see if any of them “want to come back and serve our next generation,” he said.

Meanwhile, Deleon Guerrero also said PSS is gearing up for its traditional recruitment efforts at fairs in Portland, Minneapolis, Denver, Tacoma, and Seattle

from April 5 to April 24.

“We are looking to recruit as many teachers as we can,” she said.

From June to the present, PSS has recruited over 72 highly qualified teachers, she said, re-

capping their recruitment results over the last year.

Right now, 44 percent of student recruitments come out of the Northern Marianas College education program, according to Deleon Guerrero.

## Guerrero backs govt labor task force

By JOEL D. PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) is throwing his support behind a labor task force that the government has created to tackle a looming manpower shortage in the CNMI.

The lawmaker brought up the labor issue during the Legislature’s “leadership meeting” with Gov. Eloy S. Inos last week.

He said the talks focused on the closure of the CW program in 2019, which is “something to put on the table” for lawmakers to look into.

“We cannot change our immigration law, it is a federal law. Our concerns need to be brought to the feds and also to Congress,” Guerrero said. “Hopefully, Congress sees this and amends the law.”

He said the government’s task force on manpower will be headed by the CNMI Department of Labor as well as other agencies.

The task force will be training resident workers to fill in an anticipated shortage once the CW program is over.

However, even if all resident workers do take on the available jobs, the CNMI will still have a shortage of about 11,000 workers, Guerrero said.

He said recent talks with members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marian Islands focused on the labor shortage, particularly jobs in the hospitality industry.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce earlier voiced the same concern regarding a labor shortage.

Chamber president Alex Sablan earlier said there are approximately 11,400 foreign workers now in the Commonwealth.

“Approximately 11,400 foreign workers is what we have today in the CNMI but if all developers are successful in constructing their rooms, we will need 17,000 foreign workers,” Sablan said.

According to Sablan, based on recent numbers declared by developers that are actively seeking hotel constructions, the number of hotel rooms could swell to 10,000.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. alone is projecting some 4,000 rooms.

The problem becomes apparent, as manpower needed for these hotel developments far exceeds 11,000. “And these developments [10,000 rooms] are on Saipan only,” Sablan said.

There are also developments ongoing on nearby Tinian and Rota.

Sablan further said the CNMI currently has a 13,399 quota for the CW1 visa. The number will not increase, but will eventually reach zero, he said, adding that the local population cannot sustain the looming deficit.

Sablan said the math “does not add up” anymore, as there are only a few thousand CW1 visas available, compared to the projected need of 17,000.

## Apply now for 2015 National Leadership Academy

Applications are now available for the 2015 APAICS National Leadership Academy on May 14-15, 2015. The National Leadership Academy is a two-day interactive leadership training for promising Asian American and Pacific Islander political leaders from state legislatures, city councils, local governing bodies and community leaders from across the country. Deadline to apply is April 1, 2015.

The leadership training provides participants skills and resources needed to excel in their current office, as well as prepare them for opportunities to advance into higher office. Topics include: planning your campaign, fundraising strategies and tips, ethics training, special guest speakers, and more.

Accommodations provided by APAICS include a one-night stay (May 14) at Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C.; one ticket to

the annual awards gala dinner; and breakfast and lunch on both days. For those who are not current elected officials, you are eligible for a Southwest voucher for air travel.

For more information, contact Amy Watanabe at leadershipacademy@apaics.org or 202-296-9200.

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies is a national non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process, from community service to elected office. APAICS programs focus on developing leadership, building public policy knowledge, and filling the political pipeline for Asian Pacific Americans to pursue public office at the local, state, and federal levels. (APAICS)



### STORM CASUALTY

Strong winds brought by Tropical Storm Bavi topples a portion of a fence at the main gate of Dandan Middle School yesterday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## Igisomar lists govt agencies for proposed marijuana council

By JOEL PINAROC  
joel\_pinaroc@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The departments of Public Safety, Commerce, and Lands and Natural Resources and the Professional Licensing Board are being eyed to be part of a proposed Medicinal Marijuana Council in the CNMI.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) said he has already informed DPS, Commerce, and DLNR about the proposed council.

“But I have not yet reached out to the Licensing Board,” Igisomar said, adding that he finalized a draft version of the medicinal marijuana bill last week.

Igisomar has introduced Sen-

ate Bill 19-06, a bill proposing to legalize the medical use of marijuana in the Commonwealth. The proposed bill also mandates the creation of a marijuana council.

In an earlier meeting, Igisomar was set to ask the joint Senate and House committees on Health and Education for a public hearing on the proposed bill, but decided to call it off to allow him more time to study the proposed bill and gather more information.

### Rota hearing

The Senate, meanwhile, has set the first public hearing on a proposed medical marijuana bill on

Rota on Wednesday. It will be the first public hearing on the proposed bill.

Igisomar said he expects Rota residents to ask questions regarding the regulation, cultivation, and retail consumption of qualified patients.

“I believe the talks will revolve around these areas,” Igisomar said, adding that he has included a few more amendments to the proposed bill that addresses concerns such as regulatory safety nets that will be put in place.

The lawmaker said he hopes to answer questions such as who is going to regulate the cultivators and the distributors,

and who is going to receive the treatment.

There will be two public hearings on Rota, followed by three to four hearings on Saipan and one on Tinian. “My timeframe is to have the hearings by March,” he said.

Igisomar said he has been receiving “a lot of positive feedback” on the medicinal use of marijuana from residents seeking an alternative approach to costly medical treatments, particularly patients suffering from debilitating diseases.

He said cancer patients often ask for the availability of alternative treatments that are not as expensive as chemotherapy.



# Nation

## Social Security data says 6.5M in US reach age 112

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Americans are getting older, but not this old: Social Security records show that 6.5 million people in the U.S. have reached the ripe old age of 112.

In reality, only few could possibly be alive. As of last fall, there were only 42 people known to be that old in the entire world.

But Social Security does not have death records for millions of these people, with the oldest born in 1869, according to a report by the agency's inspector general.

Only 13 of the people are still getting Social Security benefits, the report said. But for others, their Social Security numbers are still active, so a number could be used to report wages, open bank accounts, obtain credit cards or claim fraudulent tax refunds.

"That is a real problem," said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis. "When you have a fake Social Security number, that's what allows you to fraudulently do all kinds of things, claim things like the earned income tax credit or other tax benefits."

Johnson is chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which plans a hearing Monday on problems with death records maintained by the Social Security Administration.

The agency said it is working to improve the accuracy of its death records. But it would be

costly and time-consuming to update 6.5 million files that were generated decades ago, when the agency used paper records, said Sean Brune, a senior adviser to the agency's deputy commissioner for budget, finance, quality and management.

"The records in this review are extremely old, decades-old, and unreliable," Brune said.

The internal watchdog's report does not document any fraudulent or improper payments to people using these Social Security numbers. But it raises red flags that it could be happening.

For example, nearly 67,000 of the Social Security numbers were used to report more than \$3 billion in wages, tips and self-employment income from 2006 to 2011, according to the report. One Social Security number was used 613 different times. An additional 194 numbers were used at least 50 times each.

People in the country illegally often use fake or stolen Social Security numbers to get jobs and report wages, as do other people who do not want to be found by the government. Thieves use stolen Social Security numbers to claim fraudulent tax refunds.

The IRS estimated it paid out \$5.8 billion in fraudulent tax refunds in 2013 because of identity theft. The head of the Justice Department's tax divi-



AP  
In this Aug. 14, 1935, file photo President Franklin Roosevelt signs the Social Security bill in Washington.

credit reporting agencies and security firms. Federal agencies and state and local governments rely on it to police benefit payments.

But none of the 6.5 million people cited by the inspector general's report was on the list. The audit analyzed records as of 2013, looking for people with birth dates before 1901.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935, and the first old-age monthly benefit check was paid in 1940.

Many of the people cited in the inspector general's report never received benefits, though they were assigned Social Security numbers so spouses and children could receive them, presumably after they died.

The agency says it has corrected death information in more than 200,000 records. But fixing the entire list would be costly and time-consuming because Social Security needs proof that a person is dead to add them to the death list, said Brune, the agency official.

sion described how it's done at a recent congressional hearing.

"The plan is frighteningly simple—steal Social Security numbers, file tax returns showing a false refund claim, and then have the refunds electronically deposited or sent to an address where the offender can access the refund checks," said

acting Assistant Attorney General Caroline Ciruolo.

In some cases, she said, false tax returns are filed using Social Security numbers of deceased taxpayers or others who are not required to file.

The Social Security Administration generates a list of dead people to help public agencies

and private companies know when Social Security numbers are no longer valid for use. The list is called the Death Master File, which includes the name, Social Security number, date of birth and date of death for people who have died.

The list is widely used by employers, financial firms,

## Kerry cautious before new Iran talks, cites 'important gaps'

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt** (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday delivered a highly cautious assessment ahead of the next round of nuclear talks with Iran, citing "important gaps" in the way of a deal before an end of March deadline.

At a news conference in Egypt, where he attended an economic conference, Kerry also said a U.S. decision would come shortly on unblocking hundreds of millions in suspended military assistance for the Egyptian government.

Three days before Israel's election, America's top diplo-

mat expressed hope that any government voted into power "meets the hopes for peace" in the Middle East.

But on the Obama administration's No. 1 foreign policy priority, talks with Iran to curb its nuclear program, Kerry was circumspect.

He said only a negotiated agreement could provide long-term assurance that Tehran would not develop nuclear weapons. But with a deadline just two weeks away, he could not say whether the United States and other world powers would be able to reach a framework accord with the Iranians or

even were close.

"We have made some progress but there are still gaps, important gaps, and important choices that need to be made by Iran in order to move forward," Kerry told reporters in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. "The purpose of these negotiations is not just to get any deal," he said. "It is to get the right deal."

In an interview with CBS News, Kerry suggested that an extension of the talks was unlikely because it would be unproductive.

"We believe very much that there's not anything that's going to change in April or May

or June that suggests that at that time a decision you can't make now will be made then," Kerry said in an interview to air Sunday on "Face the Nation." He added: "If it's peaceful, let's get it done. And my hope is that in the next days that will be possible."

Speaking at the news conference after a week of U.S. political fighting over the diplomatic outreach to Iran, Kerry lambasted Senate Republicans who signed an open letter to Iran's leaders suggesting any deal they reach with the administration could expire the day President Barack Obama leaves office.

## Part-time Ferguson mayor in full-time spotlight

**FERGUSON, Mo.** (AP)—In the days since the release of a Justice Department report that found widespread racial bias in the Ferguson Police Department, the mayor of the St. Louis suburb has become a part-time public servant in a full-time spotlight.

The attention has only intensified as six city employees—most notably the police chief and city manager—have been fired or stepped down.

But Mayor James Knowles III remains, making just \$4,200 a year in a job he called basically ceremonial before a white police officer shot an unarmed black 18-year-old in August,

prompting weeks of sometimes-violent protests and the Justice Department inquiry. He's now so involved that he's opened a City Hall office and insists he will stay to see the city through the changes it must make.

On Friday, five residents filed an affidavit seeking to recall Knowles. They have 60 days to collect enough signatures—15 percent of registered voters in the last mayoral election—to qualify for a special election.

Knowles said he has no plans to step aside.

"Obviously there are people on the street calling for my resignation, but my voicemail, my

text messages and my Facebook are full with literally hundreds of people who want me to stay," Knowles said in an Associated Press interview Friday. "Somebody has to show leadership, and I'm focused on how we can move this community forward."

He argues that Ferguson's city manager form of government made him more figurehead than administrator, leading the city council but lacking the power to do much else. But critics say he must have known about the lax police oversight, racial profiling and profit-driven court practices cited in the Justice Department report released March 4.

"I want the mayor out," said Kayla Reed, 25, of the Organization for Black Struggle. "True accountability means clean house, top to bottom."

Knowles, who grew up in Ferguson, was just a few years out of Truman State University when he defeated an incumbent for election to the city council in 2005. He was elected state chairman of the Missouri Federation of Young Republicans in 2008 and was on the fast-track, earning mention in 2009 in the St. Louis Business Journal's "30 Under 30" list. He was elected to his current post in 2011, becoming one of Missouri's youngest mayors, and re-elected without opposition in 2014.



### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Salvage continues at Florida military helicopter crash site

**MIAMI** (AP)—The largest sections of a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed during a nighttime training mission were pulled Saturday from the waters off Florida's Panhandle amid efforts to recover the remains of all seven Marines and four soldiers who were killed. The salvage operations that had been interrupted Friday night by bad weather were expected to finish late Saturday, said Eglin Air Force Base spokesman Andy Bourland. The debris pulled from about 25 feet of water in the Santa Rosa Sound off Navarre will be moved to the Air Force's Hurlburt Field to be examined by investigators. "We will continue our recovery efforts as needed to ensure we collect as many human remains as possible," Bourland said. The probe into the crash is being led by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, based in Fort Rucker, Alabama. Investigators already are on site, Bourland said.

#### California water-wasters elude fines as drought persists

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—California water regulators, alarmed by slack conservation three years into a crippling drought, took the unprecedented step last summer of establishing statewide restrictions and gave communities a hammer to enforce them: a \$500 fine for excessive watering of lawns, hosing down driveways and running decorative yard fountains with drinking water. The drought persists, but most local water departments have been reluctant to crack down on water-wasters. Warning letters are unusual. Small fines are rare. And the \$500 hammer is virtually never wielded. Still, the State Water Resources Control Board is voting Tuesday on adding more restrictions even while acknowledging it's not sure how- or whether- Californians are following existing rules. Recognizing that hole in data collection, the board plans to start tracking how cities ensure compliance with water regulations.



# Asia

## New Zealand confronts violent past, gives new hope to Maori

**WAITANGI, New Zealand** (AP)—Their land was confiscated, their homes burned down and many of their people killed.

Now, 150 years later, the indigenous Ngai Tuhoe tribe in New Zealand is getting a new start. The government has apologized for its past atrocities, handed over 170 million New Zealand dollars (\$128 million) and agreed the tribe should manage a sprawling, rugged national park it calls home.

Last year's settlement is one of dozens the government has signed with Maori tribes in a comprehensive, multi-billion dollar process described in a U.N. report as imperfect but nevertheless "one of the most important examples in the world of an effort to address historical and ongoing grievances of indigenous peoples."

The payouts have transformed some of the tribes into major economic players in a nation where Maori make up 15 percent of the country's 4.5

million people. They have also contributed to a broader cultural renaissance and improved prospects for Maori.

Tamiti Kruger, who led the negotiations for the Tuhoe tribe, or "iwi," said the settlement provoked great emotion, especially for older tribal members.

"They could not believe that they would be alive in a time when they would witness the return of their homeland," he said.

The settlements are the result of legal claims brought by tribes against the government for breaches of the nation's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi.

The 1840 agreement effectively handed Britain sovereignty of New Zealand while guaranteeing Maori certain rights over traditional land and fisheries. Versions in Maori and English stated different things, and the treaty's implications, including whether Maori ever willingly ceded sovereignty, continue to be debated.

Soon after the treaty was signed, conflicts between Maori and white settlers over who owned land escalated into a war that killed hundreds of Maori warriors and British troops.

The government began settling claims a quarter century ago, apologizing for its past actions. Some whites argued the nation would go broke, and some Maori said it wasn't fair the government, a party to the negotiations, also got to dictate the terms, something the U.N. report cited as a flaw.

But a broad consensus has grown among lawmakers and Maori leaders that the process is working. Te Ururoa Flavell, New Zealand's Maori development minister, said the settlements have not only righted wrongs, but have also lifted Maori confidence.

With the finish line in sight, the pace of settlements has picked up. The government has signed 72 agreements and hopes to sign the final one by 2017.

## Despite Pyongyang protests, US holds firm on military drills

**BUSAN, South Korea** (AP)—Annual war games between South Korea and the U.S. military never fail to bring a loud outcry from North Korea.

U.S. military officials showing off their latest addition to the maneuvers—a new type of ship designed to deal with the exact kind of threat the North could pose—say that despite Pyongyang's protests, they are not about to back away from what has become one of the world's largest joint military exercises.

The "Key Resolve/Foal Eagle" exercises, which began March 2 and will continue through April 24, involve thousands of U.S. troops working alongside a massive mobilization of their South Korean counterparts on land, at sea and in the air. They are among the largest and longest-standing maneuvers conducted each year by the U.S. and its allies.

The kickoff of this year's exercises spurred North Korea to strongly condemn them and to test-fire several missiles to show its displeasure. On Saturday, the North's state media called the exercises an example of Washington's "vicious hostile policy" and obliquely warned it is ready to match any attempt to overthrow its ruling regime with an escalation to nuclear war.

"Nuclear war is not a game. If the U.S. thinks it can survive and win a nuclear war, it will be a delusion of an idiot," said an editorial in the Rodong Sinmun, the mouthpiece of the ruling party. "The U.S. imperialists should not misjudge the firm will of the army and people of the DPRK to mercilessly smash the anti-DPRK hysterics and eliminate the source of evils." North Korea's official name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The North often uses such

rhetoric to voice displeasure with the U.S. and South Korea.

South Korea's Defense Ministry has said the U.S. is sending a larger contingent of troops for the exercises than it did last year, but has not provided a specific number. About 5,200 American troops participated in last year's Key Resolve, which centers on computer simulations, while about 7,500 joined in the second stage of the maneuvers, called Foal Eagle, a field exercise spanning ground, air, naval and special operations.

The North has taken special umbrage this year at the participation in the exercises of the USS Fort Worth, a new kind of warship designed to fight in areas closer to shore than larger ships can enter and to counter attacks by swarms of smaller vessels, which is believed to be one of the strong points of North Korea's far less sophisticated navy.

# World

## Iraqi Kurds claim Islamic State group used chemical weapons

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Kurdish authorities in Iraq said Saturday they have evidence that the Islamic State group used chlorine gas as a chemical weapon against peshmerga fighters, the latest alleged atrocity carried out by the extremist organization now under attack in Tikrit.

The allegation by the Kurdistan Region Security Council, stemming from a Jan. 23 suicide truck bomb attack in northern Iraq, did not immediately draw a reaction from the Islamic State group, which holds a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-

declared caliphate. However, Iraqi officials and Kurds fighting in Syria have made similar allegations about the militants using the low-grade chemical weapons against them.

In a statement, the council said the alleged chemical attack took place on a road between Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, and the Syrian border, as peshmerga forces fought to seize a vital supply line used by the Sunni militants. It said its fighters later found "around 20 gas canisters" that had been loaded onto the truck involved in the attack.

Video provided by the council showed a truck racing down a road, white smoke pouring out of it as it came under heavy fire from peshmerga fighters. It later showed a white, billowing cloud after the truck exploded and the remnants of it scattered across a road.

An official with the Kurdish council told The Associated Press that dozens of peshmerga fighters were treated for "dizziness, nausea, vomiting and general weakness" after the attack. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to discuss the incident.



In this undated photo made available Saturday, March 14, 2015, by the Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC), Kurdish soldiers survey the site of a bomb attack on a road between Mosul, Iraq, and the Syrian border in northern Iraq. AP

## Venezuela conducts military exercises, claiming US threat

**CARACAS, Venezuela** (AP)—Soldiers rolled out shoulder-fired missiles, fighter planes and armored trucks Saturday for the first of 10 days of military exercises that the president of socialist-governed Venezuela says are needed to protect against a looming threat from the U.S.

As nearly 100,000 members of the armed forces began conducting exercises across the country, Venezuela's government got support from South American nations, which criti-

cized the U.S. for the way it imposed sanctions on Venezuelan leaders.

Washington imposed the sanctions earlier this week on several Venezuelan officials accused of human rights violations and declared the country a threat to U.S. national security, a formality that generally precedes declarations of sanctions. President Nicolas Maduro said he would take steps to protect Venezuela from a hostile U.S. government.

Defense Minister Vladimir

Padrino Lopez inaugurated the exercises at Fort Tiuna in Caracas, the largest military installation in Venezuela. He said U.S. sanctions constitute "an imminent danger for us" and the armed forces must ready themselves to ensure the country's independence.

In a nationally broadcast talk Saturday night, Maduro praised the skills shown by the armed forces on the first day of the exercises, saying that "we have a military that is the best guarantee of peace."

## Jamaica hopes Jewish tourism can help fading community

**KINGSTON, Jamaica** (AP)—It's Saturday morning at Sha'are Shalom, but there aren't enough Jews gathered in the dim light of Jamaica's only synagogue to conduct a formal prayer service.

An American tourist watches near the entrance of the historic temple as a half dozen members of Jamaica's dwindling Jewish community instead perform informal Sabbath prayers led by a congregant. Without the 10 Jewish adults needed for a quorum known as a minyan, men and women gather around a ma-

hogany platform raised above a sand-covered floor to pray and sing to the swelling chords of a pipe organ.

"I had to see this temple for myself," said the tourist, Melissa Solomon, a former Hebrew teacher visiting from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, with her toddler son. "I thought, 'Jamaica, too, has Jews?'"

In Jamaica in the 1800s, there were as many as eight synagogues and roughly 2,500 Jews, including quite a few who had a notable influence on civic life. But tides of migration and assimilation have

dropped their numbers to roughly 200 congregants, and just the one temple remains.

With most members of the congregation now older than 50, its members are trying to preserve their history and attract tourists who can appreciate it. In an incipient attempt to develop Jewish-related tourism on the island, the Jamaica Tourist Board says it's cultivating a "Jewish Jamaica" travel package as a form of "heritage tourism" that could encourage visitors to hold family celebrations such as weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs here.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Myanmar ferry capsizes; 34 dead, over a dozen missing

**YANGON, Myanmar** (AP)—A crowded double-decker passenger ferry capsized in northwestern Myanmar after being slammed by huge waves, killing 34 people and leaving more than a dozen missing, officials and state television said Saturday. Rescuers pulled 167 survivors from the sea and brought them to safety after the Aung Tagun 3 went down near Myebon in Rakhine state late Friday, said Myanmar Red Cross Disaster Management chief Maung Maung Khin. He said many of the survivors were sent back to their homes. The ferry was carrying 216 passengers, and 34 people were confirmed dead, state television reported. Search and rescue teams were looking for those still missing.

#### India police: Robbers gang rape nun in her 70s at school

**KOLKATA, India** (AP)—A nun in her 70s was gang-raped by a group of bandits Saturday when she tried to prevent them from robbing a Christian missionary school in eastern India, police said, the latest crime to focus attention on the scourge of sexual violence in the country. The nun was hospitalized in serious condition after being attacked by seven or eight men at the Convent of Jesus and Mary School in Nadia district, 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast of the West Bengal state capital of Kolkata, a police officer said. The men escaped and police are searching for them, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.



# Health & Fitness

## Study calls heart imaging into question for mild chest pain

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—People checked with a heart CT scan after seeing a doctor for chest pain have no less risk of heart attack, dying or being hospitalized months later than those who take a simple treadmill test or other older exam, finds a big federal study.

The results are a surprise: CT scans, fancy X-rays that give 3-D images of heart arteries, were expected to prove best and instead turned out to be just a reasonable alternative. Doctors have used these scans for a decade without knowing whether they are better than traditional tests. The federal government funded the \$40 million study—the largest ever of heart imaging—to find out.

But the study also wound up exposing how much medical radiation most patients like this—4 million in the United States each year—are getting. Radiation can raise the risk of developing cancer, yet few doctors are choosing heart tests that do not require radiation, the study revealed.

“It’s such a bad reflection on

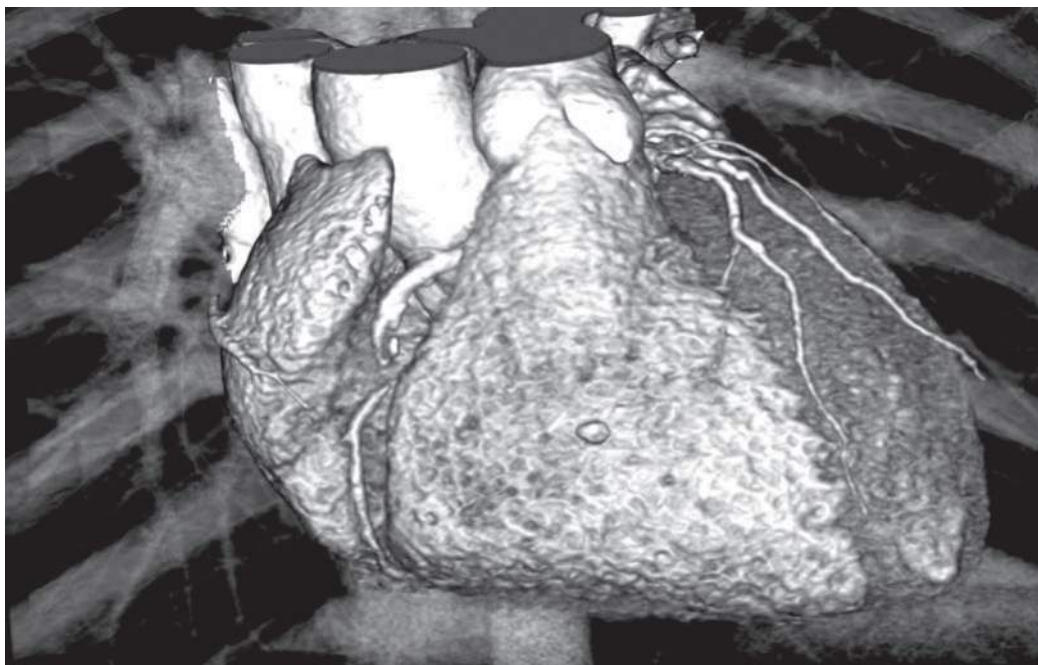
American medicine,” said one independent expert, Dr. Eric Topol of the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, California. “Look at how much radiation they gave these poor people,” equivalent to 500 to 700 regular X-rays, he said. “That is despicable.”

If more patients were told the radiation dose before agreeing to a test, more would end up with safer alternatives, he said.

The study involved more than 10,000 patients in the United States and Canada. Results were revealed Saturday at an American College of Cardiology conference in San Diego and published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

Chest pain can stem from something as serious as a clogged artery or as harmless as indigestion. CT scans are widely used to diagnose heart problems in emergency rooms. But their value isn’t known for people who go to a doctor with new but stable, less severe symptoms suggesting hidden heart disease.

In the study, half of the pa-



This image provided by Drs. Udo Hoffmann and Michael Lu, of Massachusetts General Hospital, shows a 3-D fast CT scan computer rendering of a heart in a patient who has stable chest pain.

tients were given CT scans. The rest got whatever other test their doctor chose to evaluate how well their heart was working—a sign of whether it is getting enough blood from heart arteries.

Only 10 percent of doctors

chose the simplest test—monitoring the heart with an electrocardiogram (ECG) while the patient walks on a treadmill. It involves no radiation.

About 23 percent got an echocardiogram—an ultrasound, which uses sound waves instead of radiation. A whopping two-thirds got nuclear stress tests, in which radioactive dye is injected to make the blood vessels

show up on pictures. It’s the most costly test, and it involves more radiation than a CT scan.

The aim of the study was to see which test led to the best diagnosis and treatment, thereby preventing the most deaths, heart attacks and hospitalizations for heart-related reasons over the next two years.

Only 3 percent of patients had one of these problems re-

gardless of what kind of test they got. It suggests that many of them may not have extensive testing at all, just medicines to address risk factors such as high blood pressure or cholesterol if their treadmill test was OK, Topol said.

CT scans had one advantage: more accurately guiding who needed appropriate follow-up testing and artery-opening procedures.

CT scanning “more accurately detects blockages and also more accurately excludes them,” said Duke University’s Dr. Pamela Douglas, who led the study. Deciding on a test is “a choice that doctors and patients should be making together.”

Radiation doses are falling as CT equipment improves, but the study “does expose that there are risks to many of these tests,” said Dr. Jeffrey Kuvin, one of the cardiology conference leaders and cardiology chief at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

CT scans cost roughly \$400; a treadmill test, \$175; echocardiogram, \$500 and nuclear imaging, \$946 to \$1,132. But a financial analysis found total costs, including follow-up testing, were about the same.

## S. African hospital performs first successful penis transplant

Surgeons at South Africa’s Stellenbosch University and Tygerberg Hospital announced Friday that they had performed the first successful penile transplant after a nine-hour operation in December.

The procedure took place at the Cape Town hospital on Dec. 11, and was led by the facility’s chief of urology, Dr. Andre van der Merwe, the university said.

A 2006 transplant attempt by Chinese physicians failed when the patient’s body rejected the organ. Surgeons have successfully reattached a person’s penis several times.

The patient, whose identity was not revealed for ethical rea-

sons, has made a full recovery and regained all functions of the newly transplanted organ, the university said. His penis had been amputated after complications from a botched traditional circumcision.

“Our goal was that he would be fully functional at two years and we are very surprised by his rapid recovery,” van der Merwe said in a written statement.

The procedure was part of a pilot study to develop a penile transplant procedure for men who suffer injuries from traditional circumcision practices, and could be extended to those who have lost the organ due to cancer. Nine more patients are

in line for a similar procedure, van der Merwe said.

Experts estimate as many as 250 men have to have their penises amputated after complications from traditional circumcision, according to the university.

“This is a very serious situation. For a young man of 18 or 19 years the loss of his penis can be deeply traumatic,” van der Merwe said. “There are even reports of suicide among these young men.”

The unnamed donor gave several organs to other recipients, including his heart, lungs, kidneys, liver and corneas, van der Merwe said. (Los Angeles Times)

## More children at risk of measles in wake of Ebola epidemic

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Ebola’s toll moved beyond 10,000 deaths Thursday even as researchers warned of yet another threat to hard-hit West Africa: On the heels of the unprecedented devastation, large outbreaks of measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases could move into the region.

Ebola derailed child immunizations in the three countries hardest hit by Ebola—Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, leaving hundreds of thousands more children vulnerable to the more routine infections, researchers said Thursday. Already, worrisome clusters of measles cases are cropping up.

The new study warns that it’s crucial to restart the shots quickly, citing math models that estimate thousands could die if a large enough measles out-

break were to strike before the battered health care system has a chance to recover.

Measles epidemics often follow humanitarian crises because “measles is so incredibly contagious,” explained Johns Hopkins University epidemiologist Justin Lessler, who led the study published in the journal Science.

“Measles is not the only health threat that has been made worse by the Ebola crisis, and may not even be the most dire, but it is one we can do something about,” he added.

The Ebola death milestone announced by the World Health Organization on Thursday had been expected for weeks, even though overall the epidemic is waning. Liberia has begun the 42-day countdown toward being declared Ebola-free if no new cases arise. Guinea and

Sierra Leone still are struggling to end new infections, although cases aren’t nearly as high as in the fall.

A side effect of hospitals closed in the outbreak zone, and a population frightened of what health care remained, is that unnecessary deaths occurred from malaria, childbirth and other common conditions.

Now the question is whether measles and other vaccine-preventable childhood diseases will be the next post-Ebola problem.

In Guinea, UNICEF has reports of 339 suspected measles cases, 27 of them confirmed, agency spokesman Patrick Moser said in New York.

Doctors Without Borders said it has reports of 182 suspected measles cases in Liberia, plus some suspected cases in Sierra Leone, too.

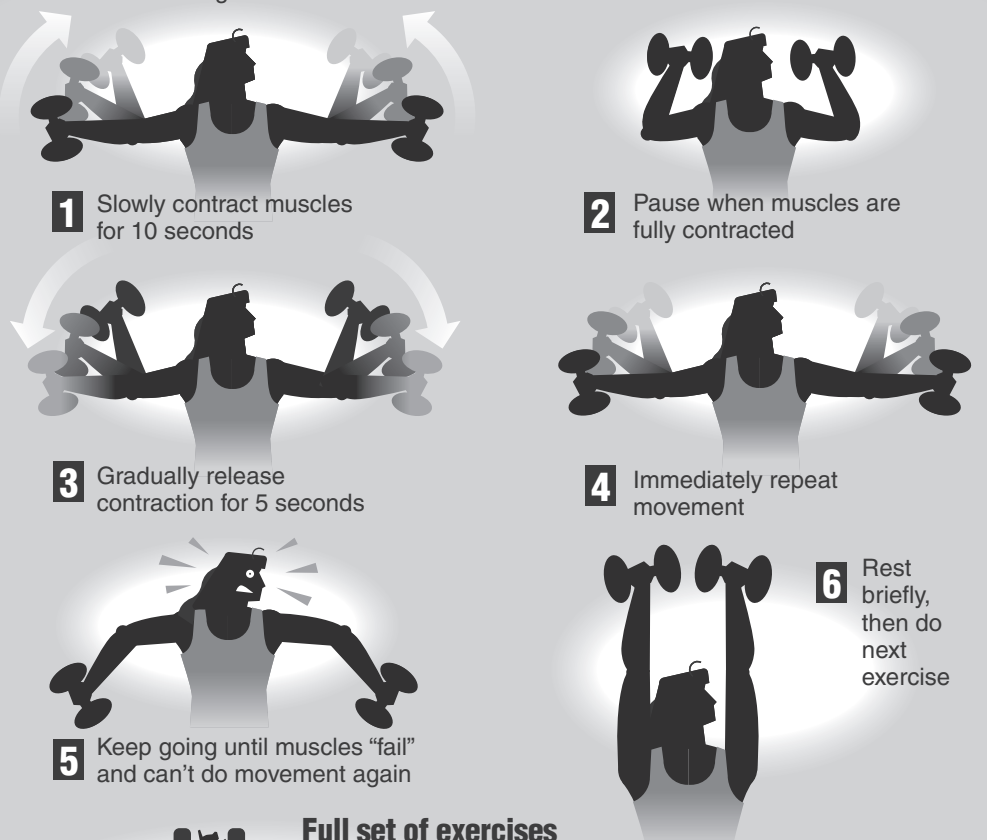
### Personal Trainer

## Fast results from ‘super-slow’

A simple training technique — doing exercises very slowly — is generally safe and has helped many people improve their strength quickly.

### Basic ‘protocol’

Use either free weights or a resistance machine



### Full set of exercises

Eight to 10 different exercises can bring all the major muscle groups to exhaustion

Usually takes only 10 or 15 min.

Three times a week is a commonly recommended schedule

Source: “Super-Slow: The Ultimate Exercise Protocol” by Ken Hutchins  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service



## Life & Style

# AP Interview: Bearded Austrian diva is living her dream

VIENNA (AP)—Long legs crossed, one leopard-skin patterned spike heel dangling, the bearded diva with the expressive brown eyes leans back and laughs heartily when asked what has changed for her since winning Europe's biggest entertainment contest nearly a year ago.

"I'm living my dream," Conchita Wurst told The Associated Press in an interview. "Everything fell into the right place for me."

Everything may be a big word. But for the drag queen, whose journey of self-discovery took her from bigoted small-town Austria to her emotional victory at the 2014 Eurovision song contest, the last 10 months appear to have confirmed that her path—though not always easy—was the right one.

She rubs shoulders with fashion icons Jean-Paul Gaultier and Karl-Lagerfeld and plays sold-out gigs across Europe. Her appearances on Austrian radio talk shows attract callers from as far away as California.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has paid his respects. She has addressed the European Parliament on LGBT rights, and her biography has just appeared in German, with other languages to follow.

Less than a year ago, over 15,000 Russians demanded that their state broadcaster purge the contest from its programming because of Wurst, accusing "European liberals" of subjecting their children to a "hotbed of sodomy."

The haters still exist—but Wurst says there is also a growing group of "incredible" Russian fans pushing to have her biography published in Russia.

"I made the decision years ago not to focus on negativity," she said. And since the win, "many people have told me that they have changed their mind about me—they got inspired, which is just overwhelming for me."

Her fuchsia-colored blouse and green skirt perfectly accenting her makeup, Wurst looked as if she were never anyone else

than the persona that has made her famous.

But even if she says that she is now immune to hate, that wasn't always so.

Born 25 years ago to innkeepers as Tom Neuwirth, Wurst was raised in the sleepy Austrian town of Bad Mittendorf, where conservative values were the norm—not a very comfortable place for someone who was dif-

ferent even as a child.

"I was constantly stressed, the target of the derisive glances of my school mates and their taunting," she recounts in the book "Ich, Conchita." ("I Conchita.") Visits to the school toilet turned into nightmares with classmates seeking to find out "if the queer looks different." And "each morning when I thought of school, my stomach

wanted to turn."

Wurst came out at 17. But instead of bringing release, the declaration backfired with her family—at least initially.

After several performances brought her some local fame, she was asked by a reporter for a weekly if she was gay. Suddenly she realized that she had to stop lying to herself and those closest to her.



In this March 9, 2015 photo, Conchita Wurst, Austrian winner of the Eurovision Song Contest 2014, talks, during an interview with The Associated Press in Vienna, Austria. AP

Yes, she blurted out. Then "I went home to my parents, and said, 'listen, I'm gay.'"

Wurst's parents might well have suspected her sexual orientation—she loved dressing up in women's clothes since childhood. Still she says that for them, the shock was "not the fact that I'm gay but (that) a week later a newspaper will come out and everybody will know it," including the conservative clientele frequenting her parents' inn.

Eight years on, she calls that moment "one of the most important of my life ... that sec-

ond where I chose to be myself 100 percent."

Her name is a play on the Austrian expression "it's wurst to me," meaning "I don't care." And her winning song "Rise Like a Phoenix" largely describes her transformation from a youth hurting under the taunts of peers to someone who now says she is totally comfortable being both Wurst and Neuwirth.

Still, she cautions others to think hard about when, and how to follow her example.

"Just take your time," she said in near-flawless English.

## Harper Lee's agent dismisses allegations of 'elder abuse'

NEW YORK (AP)—Harper Lee's literary agent says he was "surprised" that his client was believed a victim of elder abuse and asserted "categorically" that she was in "full possession of her mental faculties" and "delighted" about this summer's publication of her second novel.

The statement from Andrew Nurnberg was issued Friday through Lee's publisher, HarperCollins. Speculation about the 88-year-old author has been ongoing since last month's stunning announcement that Lee had approved the release of "Go Set a Watchman," her first book since "To Kill a Mockingbird." Lee has rarely spoken to the press over the past 50 years and had apparently long resigned herself to never publishing again.

"We have had wonderful discussions ranging over many subjects from the state of contemporary politics to University life in England," said Nurnberg, one of the few people connected to the book's publication who has met in person with Lee at the assisted-living facility in her Alabama hometown of Monroeville, the inspiration for "Mockingbird." "The fact that she is hard of hearing and suffers from some macular degeneration (entirely common

for someone in their late 80s) has no bearing whatsoever on her quick wit or of speaking her mind on all manner of things."

State investigators in Alabama have looked into whether publishing "Go Set a Watchman," scheduled for July 14 and highly in demand as a pre-order, involved financial fraud. She answered questions to the satisfaction of the Alabama Securities Commission and that part of the inquiry was closed, a state official said Thursday. The status of the larger investigation by Alabama's Department of Human Resources is unclear.

According to HarperCollins, a complete manuscript for "Go Set a Watchman" was discovered last year by Lee's attorney, Tonja Carter. The novel is a sequel to "To Kill a Mockingbird," set 20 years later, but was completed before her classic story of racial injustice in 1930s Alabama. Lee scholars have been skeptical about the book's quality and by its sudden appearance. HarperCollins has called the novel "a compelling and ultimately moving narrative about a father and a daughter's relationship, and the life of a small Alabama town living through the racial tensions of the 1950s."



Lee

## Alleged Cosby victim testifies before Nevada Legislature

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—A woman who says Bill Cosby victimized her decades ago asked Nevada lawmakers on Friday to support a bill removing the state's statute of limitations on sexual assault—a provision that prevented her from pursuing a criminal case against the comedian.

Lise-Lotte Lublin, 48, fought through tears while telling lawmakers she passed out in the Las Vegas Hilton in 1989 after Cosby gave her two alcoholic drinks. The former model said she remembers Cosby stroking her hair, and then she woke up at home.

It was only after hearing similar allegations from other women that she concluded something happened to her while she was unconscious. She said she filed a police report on the incident in January, but was told Cosby couldn't be charged because too much time had passed. So she and her husband went to the bill's sponsor and urged her to draft the legislation.

"I want to empower victims, period," Lublin said, "regardless of what happens for me."

Cosby's publicist, David Brokaw, did not immediately respond to an email message seeking comment on Friday.

More than 20 women have stepped forward in recent months to level various accusations against Cosby, ranging from unwanted advances to sexual assault and rape. Cosby has not been charged with a crime and has denied some of the allegations through his attorneys.

Las Vegas police have investigated "more than one" complaint against Cosby, but couldn't confirm if Lublin filed a police report due to department policy, said department spokeswoman Officer Laura Meltzer. None of the complaints have led to criminal

charges, she said.

Nevada law dictates that sexual assault charges cannot be filed more than four years after the alleged incident. The bill would remove that restriction and bring sexual assault in line with murder and terrorism as crimes without a statute of limitations.

Democratic Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, who is sponsoring the bill, said the legislation would help sexual assault victims who often face severe emotional and social trauma and can take years to feel comfortable before filing a report with police.

## Former 3 Doors Down musician set for DUI trial on Monday

D'IBERVILLE, Mississippi (AP)—Former 3 Doors Down bassist Todd Harrell is set to go on trial in Mississippi on Monday on a charge of second-offense driving under the influence of a substance other than alcohol.

The 43-year-old Harrell is under house arrest in Nashville on a charge of vehicular homicide by intoxication.

The Sun Herald reports that Municipal Judge Albert Foun-

tain will preside over the trial.

Harrell was arrested on the second-offense DUI charge Feb. 18, 2014.

He was convicted of a first-offense drug-related DUI in D'Iberville, Mississippi about a month before he was involved in the fatal crash in Nashville.

In the Nashville case, Harrell is accused of driving impaired by prescription drugs and alcohol when he was involved in a crash in April 2013.



# Disney sets 'Frozen' sequel; shareholder proposals nixed

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Disney said Thursday it is developing a sequel to its hit "Frozen" movie

and will release a new "Star Wars" movie in 2017. The Walt Disney Co. also

said at its annual meeting in San Francisco that investors had voted down shareholder

proposals that would have separated the CEO and chairman role. They also rejected a proposal related to paying executives stock awards if Disney is bought.

The company's board had recommended voting against both proposals.

Bob Iger has been CEO since 2005 and chairman as of 2012. He received \$43.7 million in total compensation last year, up 27 percent from the previous year. Disney had a blockbuster year in 2014 thanks to the popularity of "Frozen" and other films, along with strong results from its parks.

A meeting attendee asked Iger for a raise for Disney employees, too. The CEO noted that, after agreeing last year

to increase base pay to \$10 an hour for employees covered by one of its largest unions, Disney has extended that commitment to all hourly employees of the company.

Other major U.S. companies have also recently said they will raise employee pay in the next few years, including Wal-Mart, TJX and Gap.

In response to another shareholder question, Iger said the company had expanded its policy of not showing smoking in movies aimed at young people to include films made by its Marvel and Lucasfilm units. That rule had applied to Disney-branded movies and Pixar movies.

Disney's movies have had a strong run, in the past two years

winning Academy Awards for "Frozen," "Big Hero 6" and "Feast," an animated short film.

"Frozen" made nearly \$1.3 billion at the box office and inspired masses of toys, clothing and other merchandise as well as a devoted following of young girls.

The sequel, "Frozen 2," will have the same directors, Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee.

As for "Star Wars: Episode VIII," Rian Johnson, behind the time travel film "Looper," will write and direct.

There will also be a series of "Star Wars" spinoff films, and the first one is called "Rogue One."

Disney's stock jumped \$4.28, or 4.2 percent, to close Thursday at \$107.17.

## Reynolds prepares for future teen angst by curbing baby news

**NEW YORK (AP)**—There's a reason you won't find too many details about Ryan Reynolds' and Blake Lively's infant daughter in the media: Reynolds says they're being protective—of themselves.

"There's zero secret about it," the actor says when he's asked why the couple won't publicly reveal the baby's name.

"That little girl will grow up to be a teenager who will find out that I blurted her name out on national television and probably make me pay for it. She

will exact her revenge in searing, psychic pain," Reynolds says with a laugh.

Reynolds, 38, and Lively, 27, have a history of keeping mum about their personal business. They were married in a secret South Carolina ceremony in September 2012. Along with not releasing their baby's name—she's their first child—they also have never said exactly when she was born.

Reynolds says that doesn't mean that he believes that he and Lively will get much privacy

as a celebrity couple.

"When you put yourself in the public eye you have to accept certain aspects of it," says Reynolds, who along with Helen Mirren and Katie Holmes stars in "Woman of Gold," which premieres in theaters April 3.

He says he's OK with that because "he signed up for this," but adds that he and Lively are working on ways to keep their lives out of the press. "I think to some degree if you don't court it you don't have to deal with it so much."

## Bristol Palin says she's engaged to Medal of Honor recipient

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—Bristol Palin says she is engaged to Medal of Honor recipient Dakota Meyer.

The daughter of former Alaska governor and former GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin said in a blog post Saturday that Meyer



Palin

came to Alaska to film the "Amazing America" reality show with her mother last year. She says Meyer is wonderful with her son Tripp.

Meyer was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2011.

The Kentucky native is credited with saving the lives of 36

Marines, Army soldiers and Afghan soldiers while providing cover for them to find their way out of a firefight with the Taliban.

Sarah Palin posted a link to her daughter's blog post from her verified Facebook account. Family attorney John Tiemesen didn't return an email or voicemail message seeking comment.

## Juliette Lewis says TV role is 'strange and challenging'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—With so many movie stars flocking to the small screen, Juliette Lewis, who has a long list of film credits including "Cape Fear" and "From Dusk Till Dawn," says she resisted taking a TV role for a long time.

"It was a very grown-up decision for me to take a series," said Lewis, 41, in a recent interview, who confessed to having a "fear of playing one character for potentially years."

What made it OK to sign on to ABC's "Secrets and Lies" (airing Sundays at 9 p.m. Eastern) was the challenge of playing a homicide detective.

"She's never comfortable for me to play. It's so different from myself and that's what makes it exciting and strange and challenging," she said.

Lewis' character, police Detective Andrea Cornell, is investigating the death of a young boy. She believes Ben Crawford, played by Ryan Phillippe, may be the killer.

"I relate to her obsessive nature because to be a homicide detective you have to be slightly obsessive. You're sleeping, eating, dreaming the case until it's solved. ...



Lewis

They can't afford to be emotionally involved yet their whole pulse is about this case. I understand that as a creative personality, especially when you're younger, your whole drive to do anything artistically is all against the odds. You have to sort of be a bit obsessive about that and relentless. I also understand (the meaning of) a work ethic from a very young age," she said with a laugh.

"Being in show business, you can't have a sick day. ... If you take a sick day you are costing so many people money."

## Rihanna to become a new face for Dior

**PARIS (AP)**—Rihanna has a new gig: representing Christian Dior.

The storied French fashion house said Friday that the 27-year-old musical superstar will appear in an upcoming video and print ad campaign filmed in Versailles and slated to run this spring.

A spokeswoman for Dior would not comment further on Rihanna's new involvement with the company. The spokeswoman spoke on condition of anonymity because company policy does not allow her to be publicly named.

The bold, Barbados-born Rihanna is a regular at fashion shows from New York to Paris.



AP  
This Feb. 27, 2014 file photo shows Rihanna arriving for the Lanvin ready-to-wear fall/winter 2014-2015 fashion collection in Paris.

## Ridicule of mother-in-law is not a laughing matter

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife, "Barb," and I have been married for 21 years, and like any married couple, we've had our ups and downs. We recently visited my mom, a widow in her 80s. Barb caught a cold while we were there and needed to stay in bed while Mom and I visited family.

I noticed Mom was letting the cleanliness of her bathroom go, but Barb and I never discussed it. When we got home, our good neighbor friends told me that Barb had texted them a photo of Mom's bathroom while we were away. I was shocked and embarrassed. I feel like my wife was talking about me and my family behind my back. Barb insisted she was just poking fun at the situation. If that was the case, I should have been involved in the "fun."

This isn't the first time something like this has happened. I feel like my trust and friendship have been violated. Am I overreacting?

LEFT OUT IN INDIANA

**DEAR LEFT OUT:** Because this isn't the first time your wife has done something like this, and I presume you have let her know how you felt about it, I don't think you're overreacting.

Talk to your mother to see if there's a reason she's unable to keep up with her housework. She may need to be evaluated by her doctor to make sure she's OK. If something is wrong

with her, it is not the least bit "funny." In fact, for your wife to subject your mother to ridicule is hostile. It's time to find out what's at the root of your wife's antics.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been dating my 30-year-old boyfriend, "Jonah," for a year. He seems to be obsessively addicted to a computer video game he has played for five years. He plays many hours a day—first thing in the morning, last thing at night and all his free time in between—although he willingly goes on outings with me when I ask.

Even when Jonah isn't on his computer playing the game, he reads the discussion forums online with his mobile device. It's affecting our relationship. It also doesn't help that he recently lost his job.

I don't like seeing him waste his time on this and his lack of ambition about the important things in life. What can I do to help Jonah, or is this normal?

GAME OVER IN THE NORTHWEST

**DEAR GAME OVER:** When a hobby interferes with relationships, it is not "normal." Exactly when did Jonah become "obsessively addicted"? Was he this way when you met him? If this has been going on for the entire year you have been to-

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



gether, your boyfriend may be more comfortable in the cyber world than in this one. However, if this escalated when he lost his job, the video game may be his attempt to cope with depression.

Jonah would be better served by devoting the attention he's lavishing on the game to finding a job. If you want to help him, suggest that he spend more of his time in the real world until his life is settled again—and tell him that if he's depressed, he should talk about it to his doctor.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



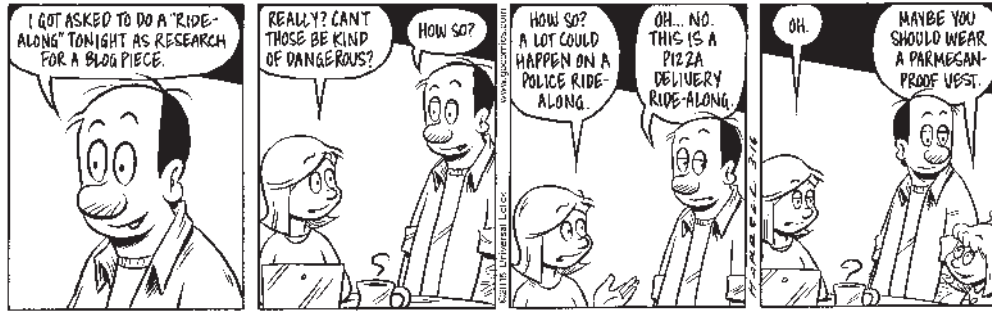
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



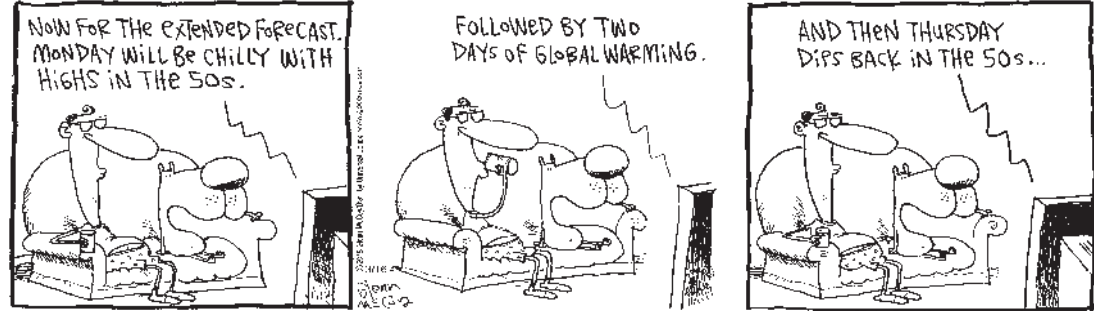
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

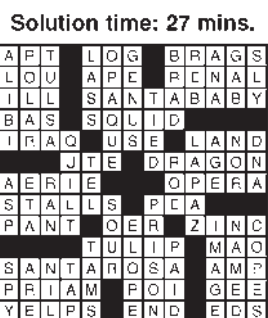
By Glenn McCoy



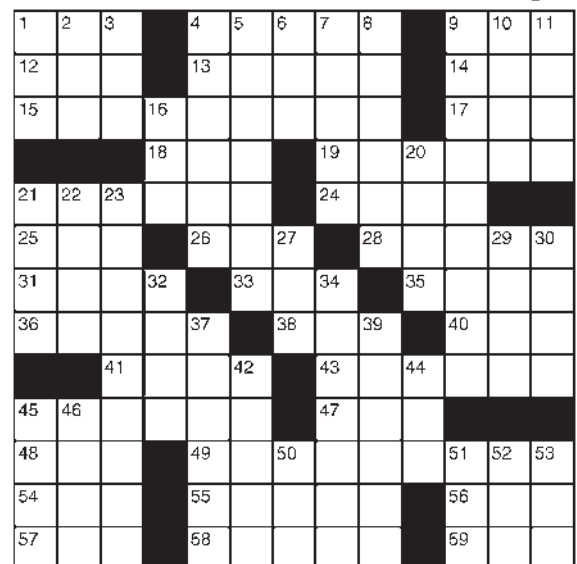
## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Some type —
- 4 Aesopian story
- 9 Bribe
- 12 Violinist's need
- 13 Forcefully
- 14 Mine output
- 15 Lawyer, in the U.K.
- 17 Confed-eracy leader
- 18 Opposite of "trans-"
- 19 Idea
- 21 Missing
- 24 Hit with an open hand
- 25 Brazilian resort
- 26 Joke
- 28 Lascivious
- 31 Right angles
- 33 Poorly lit
- 35 Wear out
- 36 Cut corners
- 38 Talk and talk and talk
- 40 The Red or the Black
- DOWN**
- 11 Hammer-head
- 1 Tummy muscles
- 2 Sticky stuff
- 3 Pussy-cat's partner
- 4 Up against
- 5 1839
- 6 Slugger's prop
- 7 They have their pride
- 8 Sign up
- 9 "Only the self exists"
- 10 Sandwich cookie
- 11 Hammer-head
- 16 Capades locale
- 20 Lacking slack
- 21 War god
- 22 Swindle
- 23 Reliability
- 27 Showbiz job
- 29 Genealogy chart
- 30 Calendar quota
- 32 Urban blight
- 34 007's quaff
- 37 "Cheers"
- 39 Started a computer
- 42 Danish money
- 44 —
- 45 Shoulder of a road
- 46 State with certainty
- 50 Stander's loss
- 51 Hostel
- 52 Regret
- 53 This clue's place, aptly enough



Friday's answer 3-16



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Judah Friedlander, 46; Lauren Graham, 48; Victor Garber, 66; Jerry Lewis, 89.

**Happy Birthday:** You are advised to view each situation independently and come to your own conclusions and decisions using moderation and a realistic attitude. Expecting too much from anyone or anything will lead to disappointment and setbacks. Instead, focus on what you can do to ensure that you make steady progress. Honesty and integrity will help you avoid a mishap. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 25, 28, 33, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** An investment will pay off. Take the time to help someone out, and you will be offered a contribution or favor that will help you out legally, financially or physically. Follow your intuition when dealing with a money matter. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Positive action to improve your appearance will result in compliments, but also can lead to costly expenditures and debt. Don't live beyond your means. Don't contribute to someone else's investment. Joint ventures will not turn out in your favor. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Say little. Listen to others and observe how they react. Consider how you can best use your skills to make a difference. Actions will speak louder than words. A romantic situation will boost your ego. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Check out different philosophies, religions and ways of doing things that interest you,

and you will find a new direction that will help you overcome some of the impositions you've been forced to deal with. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Step into the limelight and you will draw attention from others, bringing you greater control and confidence. Learn from the changes going on around you. Love is in the stars, along with self-improvement projects. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Important documents could hold you back or cost you if you overlook the fine print. You may be in a rush to close a deal, but don't be overly hasty. A good friendship will develop if you participate in an evening event. ★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Take part in events that allow you to show your compassion and competitive desire to help others. Your contributions will change the way others view you and bring about an interesting union with someone who will help you face challenges. ★★★★★

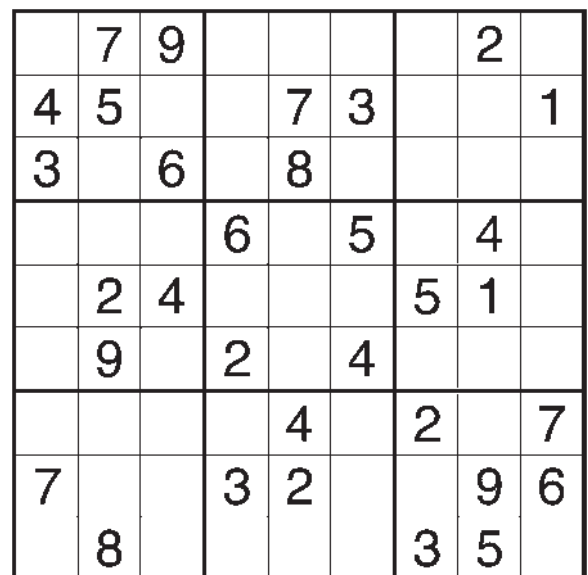
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll have a greater interest in starting your own business. Avoid overspending or taking on more than you can handle. Baby steps and an innovative approach will lead to greater success. The groundwork will result in future stability. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't spend to impress. If someone isn't happy to be with you, consider moving on. An investment you make should benefit you, not those riding your coattails. Live bravely. Have the courage to go after what you want. ★★★

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



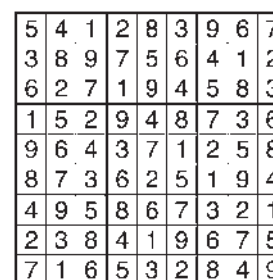
Difficulty Level ★

3/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/17

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your emotional attitude will cause confusion. You'll have to make an honest assessment of what works for you and what doesn't. Don't let anyone railroad you into a situation that is costly. Avoid unpredictable people and situations. ★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You can make vocational changes if you are persistent, innovative and enthusiastic when it comes to promoting what you want to do. Invest in yourself and your future. Personal and professional partnerships will help you reach your goals. ★★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Use your charm to get others to pitch in and help. Delays while traveling or dealing with institutions, government agencies or people in authoritative positions can be expected. Take care of details personally to avoid disappointment. Someone will try to hold you back. ★★★



**Birthday Baby:** You are forceful, outgoing and insightful. You are colorful and expressive.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/lyexhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID  
OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Solution: 7 letters



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Amount, Ancillary, Assets, Business, Early, Earnings, Employer, Funds, Grow, Invest, Joint, Lump, Month, Multiply, Paid, Pass, Pay, Percentage, Plan, Portfolio, Predetermined, Rates, Receive, Retire, Return, Risk, Salary, Save, Sector, Security, Sponsor, Spouse, Statements, Sums, Survivor, Tax, Tenure, Types, Value, Wages, Withdraw, Work, Year

Last Friday's Answer: Bull

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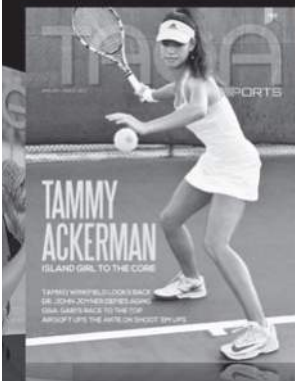
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# Celtics take control early, then hold off Pacers, 93-89



**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Boston played with the balance needed in the postseason.

Now the Celtics have to keep it up for another month to see if they will get there.

Tyler Zeller scored 18 points, three of his teammates added 16 and the surging Celtics held off late charge for a 93-89 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Saturday night that could have big postseason implications.

Boston has won four straight and six of seven to move within a half-game of Charlotte for the No. 8 seed in the East.

"The greatest team you can become is the team that just plays the right way on the next play," coach Brad Stevens said. "You know they're going to make a run. You just kind of wait for your opportunities on offense and you all play as well as you can defensively together. That's the way we approached it."

The homecoming for Zeller and Stevens couldn't have turned out any better.

Zeller started fast and wound up 8 of 10 from the field with seven rebounds.

Stevens, who started his coaching career a few miles down the road at Butler, took a page right out of the Hoosier State's playbook. His team shared the ball, defended, went toe-to-toe when necessary and continually found answers every time Indiana challenged them.

Brandon Bass, Avery Bradley and Jae Crowder each scored 16 points. Bass finally sealed the win by making two free throws with 5.3 seconds to go, ending a three-game losing streak in Indiana and giving Boston a critical 2-1 series lead with the final matchup set for April 1 at Boston.

And Boston did all that against the hottest team in the league.

"We stuck with the game plan," Crowder said. "Tough



**AP**  
Boston Celtics guard Evan Turner (11) drives the ball to the basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 14, 2015, in Indianapolis. The Celtics won 93-89.

games really help your team out especially late in the season when you're trying to make a playoff push. We know it's going to be tough, but we'll stick with it."

The Pacers tried but failed to follow the same plan on a rare off night.

George Hill rallied Indiana (30-35) by scoring 24 of his season-high 30 points in the second half. He also had eight assists and five rebounds. C.J. Miles finished with 13 points, while C.J. Watson and Rodney Stuck each added 12 points.

It wasn't enough as Indiana's season-high winning streak was

snapped at seven. The Pacers remained 3 1/2 games behind Milwaukee for the No. 6 playoff spot but saw their lead over Charlotte cut to a half-game.

"It was just a tough game for us," David West said. "We couldn't get a good rhythm or flow. We cut the game close a couple times. We weren't able to execute well enough to get a win."

Boston took control with a 17-4 first-half run that gave it a 32-20 second-quarter lead.

Indiana, which looked more like the team playing the second night of a back-to-back than Boston, spent the rest of the night playing catch-up. They

got within 45-37 at halftime and 49-48 early in the third quarter.

But the Celtics steadied themselves, took a 67-60 lead after three and extended the lead to 77-66 on Marcus Smart's 3-pointer with 8:03 left.

The Pacers got back in the game with a 10-3 run and finally got within a basket on Stuckey's 3 with 5.8 seconds to go. But Bass sealed it by making two free throws.

"We knew it was going to be a grind," Crowder said. "We were on a back-to-back and those guys have been playing well. When it got late, we got the stops we needed."

## Grizzlies 96, Bucks 83

In Memphis, Tennessee, Courtney Lee scored 17 points, Jeff Green and Zach Randolph added 15 apiece, and Memphis beat Milwaukee.

Beno Udrih, starting in place of the injured Mike Conley, had 14 points as Memphis ended a two-game losing streak. Marc Gasol finished with 12 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 19 points, shooting 7 of 10. Khris Middleton finished with 17, while Zaza Pachulia scored 14. Ersan Ilyasova added 12 for Milwaukee, which lost its second straight and ninth in the last 12.

Memphis went 8 of 14 from 3-point range, with Vince Carter and Lee each making two.

## Warriors 125, Knicks 94

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry dazzled for 25 points and 11 assists playing on his 27th birthday, and Golden State beat New York for its eighth straight home victory.

Curry ended the first half with a contested 3-pointer from the top of the arc as he leaned in and let it go, legs off balance. He finished 6 of 10 on 3s.

Klay Thompson added 27 points with six 3s, and the Splash Brothers combined for 29 points by halftime to highlight a 47-point second quarter that blew open the game.

Andrea Bargnani had 18 points for the Knicks and Alexey Shved added 14.

## Wizards 113, Kings 97

In Washington, John Wall had

31 points and 12 assists, Paul Pierce scored 17 points, and Washington rallied from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit to beat Sacramento.

Reserve Rasual Butler and Bradley Beal scored 14 points apiece for the Wizards, who have won three straight and five of seven.

DeMarcus Cousins had 30 points, 21 in the first half, for the Kings before fouling out with 5:34 left.

Ramon Sessions' 3-pointer gave Washington its first lead of the night, 89-88 with 10:11 left. Butler scored five straight to make it 94-88 and Wall's 3-pointer eventually capped a 16-0 run.

The Kings, playing the second of a back-to-back, finished 2-6 on their eight-game road trip.

## Nets 94, 76ers 87

In Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young scored 21 points and Brooklyn ended a five-game losing streak by beating Philadelphia.

Joe Johnson added 15 points and Jarrett Jack contributed 12 for the Nets, who moved within three games of eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Brooklyn had allowed 106.6 points per game during its poor run.

Nerlens Noel scored 17 points for Philadelphia. Isaiah Canaan added 13 and Hollis Thompson had 12.

The Nets extended their eight-point lead to open the fourth quarter to as many as 11 early in the period. Philadelphia battled back within two points twice down the stretch before Brooklyn held on.

## Jazz 88, Pistons 85

In Salt Lake City, Derrick Favors scored 26 points and blocked four shots, and Utah beat Detroit for its season-high fifth consecutive victory.

The Pistons lost their 10th in a row.

The Jazz ran their offense through Favors for much of Saturday night. Rudy Gobert had 10 points, 19 rebounds and two blocked shots, while the rookie backcourt of Dante Exum and Rodney Hood combined for 20 points.

Greg Monroe led the Pistons with 16 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks. Anthony Tolliver added 14 points off the bench.

The anticipated Gobert-Andre Drummond matchup didn't materialize after the Pistons center was diagnosed with a concussion and didn't play after halftime.

## Ryan Moore takes lead in Valspar Championship

**PALM HARBOR, Fla.** (AP)—Ryan Moore had no trouble explaining how, after 12 consecutive pars to start the third-round of the Valspar Championship, he birdied four of the final six holes Saturday.

"I just hit it closer," he said.

The result was a 4-under 67 that pushed Moore to a 54-hole total of 9-under 204 and a one-shot lead over Jordan Spieth on Innisbrook Resort's Copperhead course.

Spieth shot 68. Derek Ernst was another stroke back after a 69.

The field was like a crowded freeway early before Moore finally opened up some space. When the final pairing of Brendon de Jonge and Spieth reached its fifth hole, they were part of an eight-way tie for the lead at 5 under. Another

seven players were a shot back. Twenty-seven were within three.

While de Jonge, who led by one after 36 holes, shot 75 and fell off the pace, Moore, seeking his fifth career win, moved steadily along in the swirling wind until sprinting to the finish.

"Any day around this golf course with no bogies is pretty good especially the spots where I hit it," Moore said. "I was able to save par really low in the middle of my round, made some good putts but had some good chip shots. Was able to get it rolling there and make some birdies coming in."

The first birdie, coming on the 200-yard par-13th with a 6-iron to 8 1/2 feet, was the

springboard.

"It was not an easy par 3 especially with that wind," Moore said. "It was hard to figure out whether it was really helping or more across. Obviously, you don't want to get that wrong with water short and with trouble long, you don't want to go long of that green."

"Stepped up and hit a great iron shot there, left myself nice 8-, 9-footer right below the hole and knocking that in kind of got me going there on the backside."

Spieth was tied for the lead until Moore's birdie at 18. Spieth saved par at that hole with a one-putt from 6 feet.

"I got a lot of confidence at the end right there with my





# Red Sox finish \$31.5M deal with Cuban infielder Moncada



**FORT MYERS, Fla.**

(AP)—Having finalized a contract for a record \$31.5 million signing bonus, 19-year-old Yoan Moncada likely will start his minor league career this season at Greenville of the Class A South Atlantic League.

“My goal is to find out if I can make it to the big leagues in a year,” the infielder said through a translator during a news conference Friday, a day after his agreement was finalized. “I know not having played for so long it’s understandable that it might take a little more time than that.”

Moncada was in uniform Thursday at Boston’s minor league camp in Fort Myers, even before the agreement was announced. He said he feels most comfortable at second base, the position he played last year in Cuba with Cienfuegos. He hit .273 with a team-high 13 extra-base hits in 45 games.

“Now I’m here and want to get to work,” said Moncada, listed by the Red Sox at 6 feet, 215 pounds.

He could remain at extended spring training before reporting to a minor league team.

“Whatever time he needs in Fort Myers, we want to give him that,” Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington said. “We expect Greenville at some point.”

Cherington called Moncada an “atypical talent.”

“First of all we believe he’s one of the one of the most talented 19-year olds in the world,” Cherington said. “He’s got a really unique combination of skills. Great athlete. Speed. Switch hitter with power from both sides of the plate. Defensively, the athletic ability to play multiple positions if he had to. A natural second baseman. So as I said he’ll enter our minor league system like everyone else.

“There’s still development to do. He’s still a developing baseball player but he’s an exceptionally talented one. ... We believe he can be a very good major league baseball player for a long time. And we’re committed to helping him get there in the right way.”

Red Sox Manager John Farrell said Moncada is not likely to play in any big league exhibition games this season.

Boston started keeping track of Moncada in international competition in 2010, according to Eddie Romero, the team’s director of international scouting. Romero said he first watched Moncada in the Netherlands in the summer of 2013 in the World Port Championship and later that year scouted him in Taiwan.

“And there was no doubt the tools stood out,” Romero said. “An aggressiveness and excitement to his game.”

Moncada has established residency in Guatemala and

AP  
Boston Red Sox’ Yoan Moncada speaks at a press conference during spring training baseball, Friday, March 13, 2015, in Fort Myers Fla.

the Red Sox observed him in a workout there. Moncada said 11 teams invited him in for workouts,

“It was a very tough process,” Moncada said. “But I’m thrilled to be able to join the Red Sox.”

Moncada didn’t detail how he left Cuba or what relatives he has in the United States. He wouldn’t say whether President Barack Obama’s decision to normalize relations with Cuba might make it easier for him to travel back to see his family.

“I don’t know much about the ongoing relations,” Moncada said. “I hear some good things about it and the possibilities, but really I’m just focusing on getting here and just wanting to play ball. That’s my No. 1 focus as of right now.”

When he was asked after the news conference about his father and learning to play baseball as a young boy, Romero said Moncada wouldn’t discuss those topics.

Moncada receives \$5 million of the signing bonus within 30 days of the contract’s approval by Major League Baseball and \$2.5 million by Dec. 31, according to contract information obtained by The Associated Press.

In 2016, he gets \$2.5 million by Jan. 31, \$3 million by April 1 and \$2.5 million by Oct. 31, and then in both 2017 and 2018 he receives \$5 million by Jan. 31 and \$3 million by Oct. 31.

Moncada will cost the Red



Sox \$63 million, including a tax penalizing them for the signing. They have spent \$37,505,000 on international amateur free agents during this signing period and pay a 100 percent tax on the amount over their pool total of \$1,881,700.

The tax, \$35,623,300 unless it is increased by more signings, is due to MLB by July 30. According to baseball’s collective bargaining agreement the commissioner’s office “may use the tax proceeds to further the international development of baseball.”

In addition, for the signing periods starting on July 2 this summer and in 2016, the Red Sox will be ineligible to give a signing bonus of more than \$300,000 to any international players subject to the pool.

The previous high signing bonus for an international amateur free agent under 23 was \$8.26 million for pitcher Yoan Lopez, who finalized an agreement with Arizona on Jan. 16.

Moncada is the second high-profile Cuban to sign with the Red Sox in the past year following outfielder Rusney Castillo, who made his big league debut in September after signing a \$72.5 million, seven-year contract.

Former Red Sox pitcher Luis Tiant, who also left Cuba to play in the major leagues, sat several feet to Moncada’s left at the news conference Tiant, now 74, said he didn’t get a signing bonus when he joined the Cleveland Indians’ organization in 1961 and started in the minor leagues with a salary of \$150 per month.

“I didn’t have any complaints,” Tiant said.

## Steelers, Roethlisberger agree to 5-year contract



**PITTSBURGH**  
(AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers

spent the first frenzied days of free agency doing what they always do: watching other teams reach deep into their wallets to gamble on talented players they hope will put them over the top.

That’s not how things work in Pittsburgh. The defending AFC North champions have won more Super Bowl trophies than any other franchise by focusing on keeping their own. When the fit is right, the price tag is never too high.

No wonder Ben Roethlisberger couldn’t keep the smile off his face.

The Steelers and their franchise quarterback agreed on a new 5-year contract on Friday that could keep him in black-and-gold for the rest of the decade and almost certainly the remainder of his already remarkable career.

“It’s home,” Roethlisberger said. “It’s family. As much as my wife and kids are fam-

ily, so is the Rooney family. It just means a lot. I just love this place.”

One Roethlisberger insists he never intended on leaving despite speculation in the middle of a disappointing 2013 that he may have wanted out. The two-time Super Bowl winner bristled at what he called a rumor and has responded by playing the best football of his life.

The 33-year-old passed for a career-high 4,952 yards last season, breaking his own team record and tying Drew Brees for NFL lead. Roethlisberger also had 32 touchdowns and nine interceptions while taking every snap during the regular season. He hasn’t missed a start since 2012 while developing a rhythm in Todd Haley’s dynamic offense.

It’s why team president Art Rooney II made locking down Roethlisberger to a long-term deal was at the top of the list when the new league year began on Tuesday.

“Certainly a lot of things happened around the league,”

Rooney said. “For us there was nothing more important than getting this done. We’re really happy with the way the first week of free agency ended.”

Financial details were not immediately available, though Roethlisberger is now almost certainly one of the highest-paid quarterbacks in the league. The new contract replaces the eight-year, \$102 million deal he signed in 2008. Roethlisberger originally had a base salary of \$11.6 million with a cap hit of \$18.35 million for 2015.

Rooney said the contract was fair to both sides, adding it was a priority for Roethlisberger and the team to make sure Pittsburgh had the room under the salary cap to put together a roster than can take another step following a bounce back 2014 in which the Steelers went 11-5 and won their fifth division title with Roethlisberger under center.

Pittsburgh did make its first free agent signing on Friday, quietly bringing in Carolina veteran running back DeAnge-

lo Williams to serve as a backup to budding star Le’Veon Bell. The 31-year-old Williams signed a two-year contract after spending nine seasons in Carolina. Williams has 6,846 career rushing yards but was held to 219 yards on 62 carries in just six games during an injury plagued 2014.

The Steelers remain in the market for help at outside linebacker and in the secondary after free agent linebacker Jason Worilds abruptly retired and defensive back Brice McCain bolted for Miami. Yet the franchise’s identity has shifted from the “Steel Curtain” that has provided the backbone of championship after championship.

Pittsburgh’s stars are on offense. None is bigger than Roethlisberger, who has two Super Bowl rings but also the scars from high-profile missteps off the field, including a 2006 motorcycle accident. He was also accused of two sexual assaults, but never charged. He was suspended four games in 2010 for violating the league’s

personal conduct policy. Those days are long gone. Roethlisberger stood with his wife Ashley and their two young children on Friday and reaffirmed his commitment to an organization that has never wavered in its support.

“Every day I try to embrace the responsibility that comes with being a father, a husband, a Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback and a teammate,” he said. “I think this day is just another step of me doing everything I can to be the best leader, the best teammate.”

Roethlisberger brushed off the notion that this will be the final contract he signs. He’s as healthy as he’s been at any point since the team took him in the first round of the 2004 Draft. If his body holds up, there’s no telling how long the show can go on.

“People ask me how long do I want to play,” Roethlisberger said. “If I look to the end I’m missing out on the right now. Right here, right now it’s a great time to be a Pittsburgh Steeler.”



# Tokyo FC shuts down NMI U18 pool

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

A team from Tokyo Football Club handed the CNMI U18 boys national pool its second friendly game loss following a

3-0 victory last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. The visiting squad shook off jetlag and used its speed and aggressiveness on offense to down the home bets, who fell to another Japanese crew—Ar-

ies FC (0-5)—last month after opening their series of exhibition matches with a 2-1 triumph against Japan Soccer College.

Majority of the members of the U18 team arrived on Saipan Saturday afternoon or just a few hours before the 6pm game time and were a bit sluggish offensively, missing several attempts. Goalie Chris Aninzo helped foiled Tokyo FC's bid to hit the board early in the first half with his couple of saves, including a perfect catch of Sho Koizumi's free kick a few feet away from the left side of the penalty box.

Despite wasting many opportunities to score, the visiting team remained persistent on offense and was rewarded with its effort in the 31st minute off Kazuki Yamauchi's header from Koizumi's left corner kick. Yamauchi, the tallest player on his team, saw the CNMI's defense sagging to the left, leaving him a bit open for the header near the right post of the goal.

After the defensive miscue, the Commonwealth youth players had a chance to equalize when Yoshi Mafnas led a breakaway and issued a pass on Ryu Tanzawa inside the box at the middle, but the latter over-shot his target with the ball going above the goal. Earlier, the CNMI had the opportunity to score first, but Evan Belcher's attempt inside the box was a bit

soft and Tokyo FC's goalie easily picked the ball.

The CNMI had limited offensives tries in the first half, as its top scorer, Sean Perez, left the game early after colliding with Tokyo FC's Takuya Kato. Perez and Kato both went up for a header near centerfield and dropped on the floor with the former going under the latter and holding on to his stomach after the collision. Perez grimaced in pain for a while and managed to play for a few more

minutes before he was taken out of the match for good. Ryu replaced the injured Perez.

Ryu tried to fill in Perez's big shoes, but was outsprinted by faster Tokyo FC players every time he chased the ball after getting a long pass from his teammates.

Tokyo FC continued to use its quickness to advance the ball and create a lot of scoring opportunities in the second half. Aninzo tried to hang tough on defense and recorded a few more serves before his diving save failed to catch a left cross from Hatama Naohide in the 70th minute.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
The CNMI's Yoshi Mafnas kicks the ball as he is defended by a Tokyo FC player near the sideline during the first half of the friendly game last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

# Starz nip Fielders for second win

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Jon Tenorio pitched a complete game, while Ricardo Dela Cruz had three hits to lead the North Starz to a 9-8 win over the IP&E Fielders in last Friday's Saipan Baseball League game at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Starz, trailing 8-6, scored three times in the top of the ninth with Dela Cruz leading off with a single and scoring on a wild pitch while Rim Cruz, who also singled, stole home to tie the game.

First baseman John Acosta

had another single and was driven home by a Nicko Martin RBI single.

Tenorio was tagged with six earned runs on 12 hits with three strikeouts and two walks, and the Starz defense foiled the Fielders' attempt to move ahead in the bottom of the ninth.

Tenorio, with the Starz holding on to that one run lead, forced Jimmy Brel to an infield fly while Ton Tenorio flied out to Ian Lizama for quick two outs.

The Fielders put the tying run on first after Tom Guerrero got on base on an error by third baseman Wally Emul.

Tenorio, however, ended the game when he forced Ron Whyllie to an infield fly that was

Koizumi, who almost always led his team's attack, finally lit up the board in the 82nd as he won a scramble in the box and kicked the ball in against Joshua Galarion, who replaced Aninzo midway in the final half of the rescheduled friendly match.

The Tokyo FC-CNMI U18 pool exhibition game was originally set for yesterday, but Northern Mariana Islands Football Association decided to hold it last Saturday because of typhoon Bavi. It was a good move on the part of NMIFA as the typhoon struck yesterday, forcing the cancellation of many games, including matches in the association's M-League.

## BELING

From Page 28

vanced to the semis after a 6-0, 6-3 triumph over Dong Min Lee, a 6-4, 6-4 winner against junior player Robbie Schorr. Loken also downed a junior player in Colin Ramsey, 6-4, 6-3, to gain the other semis berth in the top half of the draw.

At the bottom half, Cruz marched into the semifinals af-

ter sweeping Daniel Park, 6-2, 6-2. Cruz faced Race in the semis and eked out a 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 win to arrange a finals date with Beling. Race earned the other semis seat in the lower bracket following a 6-2, 6-2 win against Luther Lizama.

Meanwhile, four more were crowned singles champions at the conclusion of the two-week-end tournament.

In the women's open singles,

junior player Carol Lee made it two in a row against Mikayla Lopez in the same tournament after notching a 6-1, 6-1 win in last Saturday's title match. Lee also prevailed against Lopez in the girls U18 singles finale, 6-3, 6-4, in the opening week of the annual competition.

Lee barged into the finals after a 6-0, 6-0 crushing of Tania Tan, while Lopez also took only two sets to oust Malika Miy-

awaki in the other semis tiff, 6-0, 6-1.

In the women's 3.0 singles finals, Asia Raulerson topped fellow junior player Susan Sablan, 6-1, 6-3.

In the men's 3.0 singles, the championship went to Eric Abragan, who defeated Jose Jacinto in last Saturday's title duel, 6-2, 7-5. Abragan earned a finals stint after a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Peter Deng, while

Jacinto outclassed Brian Kim, 6-1, 6-0, in the other semis pairing.

In the men's 4.0 singles Kumar Raj ruled the six-player field. He secured the division championship after slipping past Ryan Cho, 6-4, 6-3. Raj made it to the finals after a 6-2, 6-0 win over Gary Ramsey, a 6-0, 6-0 victory against June Keller. Cho entered the finals after a 6-1, 6-2 victory against junior player Seiya Eda.

Meanwhile, tournament organizers would like to thank PIC-Saipan, PTC (including Gatorade, Monster, and C2), Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, Kanoa Resort, Sand Castle, and Sea Touch for supporting the competition.

## AKIMARU

From Page 28

Sharing the 13 to 14 group top honors with Akimaru was Tsunami Guam's Leilani Koiwa, who earned 77 points to edge teammate Samantha Hon (75). Madison Packbier completed Tsunami Guam's Top 3 finish after gathering 56 points. Rounding out the division were Manhoben's Mineri Gomez (50), Palau's Roylin Akiwo (46), Tsunami Guam's Katelee McCormic (41) and Ayaka Lin (38), Tsunami Saipan's Kyona Rivera (38), Andersen's Jacobi Headlee (12), and Tsunami Saipan's Kathrine Illani (4).

Meanwhile, other top finishers in their respective age group are U8's Ashley Dangol and Hans Xu of Tsunami Saipan; 9 to 10's Esabelle Eldridge and Chuckie White of Tsunami Guam; 11 to 12's Roxanne Mikel and Jimi Hendrix of Tsunami Guam; 15 to 16's Rosalyn Mikel and Jagger Stephens of

Tsunami Guam; and 17-and-over's Dimgulbai Misech of Palau and Keigo Kitadate of Tsunami Guam.

Dangol was the runaway winner in the girls U8 division after tallying 63 point. Her closest pursuer, teammate Maria Batallones, only bagged 24 points. SSC's Andrei Kaith Lynn completed the podium finish after logging 23 points. Eight other swimmers joined the division.

In the boys U18, Tsunami Saipan had a 1-2 finish with Isaiah Aleksenko placing second to Xu, who collected 83 points against the former's 53. Manhoben's Israel Poppe finished third with his 41 points, beating six other swimmers.

In the girls 9 to 10, Eldridge won against 12 others after recording 81 points. SSC's Coume Kaga came in at second with her 65 markers, while Tsunami Saipan's Natsuki Naga had 39 to rank third.

In the 15-swimmer boys di-

vision, there was a close fight for first place, with White's 66 points edging the 64 of SSC's Jinnozuke Suzuki. Tsunami Saipan's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero finished third with his 60 points.

In the girls 11 to 12, Roxanne posted 72 points to beat Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran (65) and Aika Watanabe (46). Thirteen other swimmers entered the division. In the boys category, Hendrix was way ahead with his 81 points versus the 66 of teammate Ken Hasegawa. Palau's Noel Keane rounded out the Top 3 after gaining 60 markers.

Roxanne's older sister, Rosalyn, had a tough win in the girls 15 to 16 division against Tsunami Saipan's Angel De Jesus, 66-64. Palau's Rhema Joy Maidu (56) and Berneace Balayo (51) and Manhoben's Amanda Poppe (48) completed the division. In the boys category, Jagger's 72 points edged the 68 of Tsunami

Saipan's Takumi Sugie. Tsunami Guam's Alexander Gonzalez made it to the Top 3 with his 52 points, just 2 more than fourth finisher and Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai.

In the girls 17-and-over division, Palau finally got a high-point award with Misech downing the host's Victoria Chentsova, 71-68. Tsunami Saipan's Daima Rivera and Palau's Romellen Maidu, who tallied 63 and 55, respectively, were the other entries in the division. In the boys category, only two joined with Kitadate's 81 besting the 39 of SSC's Salofi Welch.

The SSC-hosted meet was held from Thursday to Saturday with over 100 swimmers from Saipan, Guam, Marshall Islands, and Palau competing in the three-day event. Yesterday's ocean swim was cancelled due to typhoon Bavi.

Results per races and the swimmers' times will be reported later this week.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	39	26	.600	—
Boston	29	36	.446	10
Brooklyn	26	38	.406	12 1/2
Philadelphia	15	51	.227	24 1/2
New York	13	52	.200	26
Southeast Division				
x-Atlanta	51	14	.785	—
Washington	38	28	.576	13 1/2
Charlotte	29	35	.453	21 1/2
Miami	29	36	.446	22
Orlando	21	46	.313	31
Central Division				
Cleveland	42	25	.627	—
Chicago	40	27	.597	2
Milwaukee	34	32	.515	7 1/2
Indiana	30	35	.462	11
Detroit	23	43	.348	18 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	46	20	.697	—
Houston	43	22	.662	2 1/2
Dallas	42	25	.627	4 1/2
San Antonio	40	24	.625	5
New Orleans	36	29	.554	9 1/2
Northwest Division				
Portland	43	20	.683	—
Oklahoma City	36	29	.5548	
Utah	29	36	.446	15
Denver	25	41	.379	19 1/2
Minnesota	14	50	.219	29 1/2
Pacific Division				
Golden State	52	13	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	42	24	.636	10 1/2
Phoenix	34	33	.507	19
Sacramento	22	43	.338	30
L.A. Lakers	17	47	.266	34 1/2
x-clinched playoff spot				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# NMIVA selects players to Pacific Games



Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is pleased to announce athlete and coach selections for Pacific Games

2015 in Papua New Guinea this coming July. The men's team will be Clay McCullough-Stearns partnered with Andrew Johnson and the women's team will be Chamesa "Chenny" Lizama partnered with Toni Kasilyn Yamada. Jeff Carlucci will serve as head coach and his assistant coaches are Darcy Wylie and Codie Sayles.

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka stated, "NMIVA began setting up a plan for selecting players in late 2014. Unfortunately, then head coach Russ Quinn wasn't able to continue volunteering, so it put the whole plan for going to the Pacific Games into question. The board had to decide whether the project could be rescued as our resources are stretched quite thin with other programs coming online."

Peterka continued, "This was when the board agreed that a committee approach would be best to help formulate a plan, set up a structure and allow NMIVA to keep the project on its schedule. We tasked the PG2015 project committee to establish the structure and guidelines for the selection process during the month of January."

Secretary/board member Amie McRoberts commented, "While in previous years, NMIVA followed a qualifier series model-type for selecting

athletes, time being of the essence, the committee decided to try a different model of approach. The model consisted of a combination of athletes' playing experience, athletic ability, commitment, and sportsmanship. The board supported their re-modeled vision."

Requests for expressions of interest were posted on NMIVA's blog and noticed in the newspapers the first week of February. The notice asked that players and coaches notify NMIVA of their interest via email by Feb. 15. By the deadline NMIVA received emails from three coaches and eight players (four male and four female). Two applicants were former residents living in the mainland. NMIVA communicated further instructions to athletes regarding anticipated commitments, tryouts, resumes, and next steps. The tryout was held Feb. 21, 2015 for on-island athletes, while off-island athletes submitted video tryouts; each of them meeting the required Feb. 28, 2015 deadline.

Resumes from all athletes were received by the Feb. 20, 2015 due date. Five evaluators were present at the on-island tryout: former head coach Russ Quinn, new head coach Jeff Carlucci, former national team player and coach Tyce Mister, and current youth development coaches Darcy Wylie and Codie Sayles. Coaches kept independent notes for each athlete, which were turned over to the committee. The video tryouts were also reviewed.

The committee made its rec-



**McCullough-Stearns**

ommendations to the NMIVA board, which included structuring for coaches and a timeline for selecting athletes. Their recommendation was for a head coach and as assistant coach (or coaches) as opposed to a men's team coach and a women's team coach. The head coach would be responsible for selecting and organizing assistant coaches and selecting athletes. This model allows for flexibility and best availability of volunteer coaches for the athletes. It also assures the highest quality training programs for athletes.

Carlucci's professional ex-

perience includes playing professional competitive beach volleyball with the AVP and at FIVB events and motivational training skills. Carlucci was nominated to be the head coach by the committee and approved by the board last week. Carlucci accepted the position and will be utilizing both Wylie and Sayles along with Quinn, Mister, and Kathy Winkfield to fill in as their schedules allow. Coaches are 100 percent volunteers, as NMIVA does not have the resources to hire any staff.

Beginning March 8, 2015, Carlucci began informing athletes of his decisions via email



**Johnson**

and/or in person. Those athletes not named as "selected" will remain on the coaches' roster as alternates for the games to be called upon if injuries or extenuating circumstances might cause those selected to withdraw.

Carlucci will be meeting with assistant coaches early next week to map out the training calendar, to prepare athlete contracts and plan the first athletes' meeting. "Basically, athletes will be actively engaged in some type of training no less than three days per week and working on creating new daily personal health habits," stated Carlucci.

Elaborating further, Carlucci shared, "Much of their time will be spent on cross-training and plyometrics in order to improve endurance and strength as well as overall health and fitness. Training will also focus on strategy and honing position-specific skills, sportsmanship and communications. Former CNMI national team beach volleyball players will participate in scrimmages to simulate real-time implementation of the foregoing training plan. I will be relying on assistant coaches for some very intense one-on-one training."

The committee's next steps will include organizing athletes, and coaches' paperwork required by Northern Marianas Sports Association. Additionally, athletes, coaches, and committee members will meet to discuss fundraising plans. Due to limited resources, NMIVA will only be able to provide equipment and contribute to uniform costs. All other costs will be the personal responsibility of the athletes and coaches.

Pacific Games 2015 will be held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from July 1 to 18, 2015. NMIVA has approved and is assisting one each men's and women's teams to attend the beach volleyball portion of the competition slated for the second week of the event. (NMIVA)

## SIDEBAR

### Players, coaches nominated to HS All-Stars program

Marianas Interscholastic Sport Organization's volleyball coaches recently nominated their MVPs and one alternate, while MISO season-winning teams also received their full team nominations for the CNMI High School All-Stars indoor program. This week, student-athletes met altogether for the first time to learn more about the program that they have been nominated to.

Coaches Darcy Wylie, Codie Sayles, J.R. Gechig and Mili Saiki presented on requirements and expectations, fundraising, the initial target competitions, the practice schedule and finished off with a brief discussion regarding the enrollment packet. Approximately 57 of the 60 nominated students were present along with a few parents.

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka offered opening remarks about the dreams of

seeing a pathway program for developing next level player skills and talent. The long-term vision is for the All-Stars indoor program to be a pathway for developing an official indoor national team. Wylie carried on with an explanation of how nominees were selected and explained the program's first target competition. Sayles explained the player point system that will be used to monitor participation in addition to actual skills and performance. Saiki shared her experience and offered her support for how fundraising will work. A big subject was expectations of players, where Wylie drove home points on commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, and hustle.

NMIVA's High School All-Stars is a pilot program being launched and tested with several objectives in mind. (NMIVA)

## Spartans slowly pulling away in Kingfisher division

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

The Jokers Spartans is slowly putting some distance between itself and its opponents in the Kingfisher C division of the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring season.

The Jokers-backed crew, last season's champions, completed an 11-4 decision over the Route33 Dart Knights for a 33-12 card and enjoy an eight-win edge

over second-running Sand Juvy Sea-Ricks' 25-20 mark.

The Spartans, led by Jun Santos and Melvin Aldan, swept all of their four matches in the 301 Double in/Double event and did not give the Dart Knights any chance to make a comeback.

Dan Repeki, Steven Igisaiar, Harlan Reyes, Rusty Santos, Stanely Aldan, and Toto Vergara are the other members of the Spartans.

The Dart Knights dropped to 24-21 followed by the 23-22

record of the Naked Fish Hafa Mas. The Smoke Pub High Flyers and the Jokers Chagi Fan complete the standings and are currently tied at the bottom with similar 15-30 slates.

In other results, Hafa Mas escaped with an 8-7 win over Chagi Fan while the Sea-Ricks pulled off a 12-3 decision against the High Flyers.

### Masters

- Destroyers 10, Dart N Chelus 7
- Shoot Balut 11, Phytions 6
- TDI Summit 12, Scratch

### 'N' Sniff 5

### Ladies

- Vicious Darties 9, Try Luck 6
- Kitty Kats 12, Pasawayz 3

### A Division

- Ridin' Darry 10, Voyagers 7
- Mafia 13, Huntlawz 4
- Predators 14, No Fear 3
- Snipers 9, Warriors 8
- Sakude 9, 101 Proofers 8

### Tuesday B

- Titans 10, Dabarkads 5
- Atarashi Boys 10, Like It Or Not 5
- Pasaway 8, Dartaholics 7
- One Shot 10, Na'Gupu 5
- Real Deal 8, No Fear 7
- Ridin' Darry 9, Killaz 6

### Fanihi B

- Latte Sparks 12, Warriors 3
- Bull-It 9, Breakers 6
- Pokers 9, Koi's 6
- Jump It 8, Darty Flight 7

### Flame Tree B

- Kyodai 8, Snipers 7
- Preba Darts 9, Dragon Warriors 6
- 80 Proofers 12, Team Fearless 3
- Mixblood 12, Sunrisers 3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Jokers Preba Darts enjoy a light moment before their game in the Bud Light-SEDA Thursday Fanihi B division.





**Celtics take control early, then hold off Pacers, 93-89**

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**NMIVA selects players to Pacific Games**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015

## Beling sweeps Cruz in men's open finals



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**L**uke Beling went unbeaten in the men's open singles event of the 15th PIC Tennis Championships to clinch the division championship last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Beling played three games in the men's open singles and swept all his foes to defend the title he won against junior player Moris Villanueva last year, 6-4, 6-0. This season, Beling's finals foe was Bobby Cruz and the former cruised to a 6-1, 6-0 victory last Saturday afternoon.



Early in the morning, Beling also needed only two sets to beat doubles partner Peter Loken in the upper bracket semifinals, 6-2, 6-2.

The eventual champion ad-

**See BELING on Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Luke Beling's steps sideways to return a shot from Bobby Cruz during their title game in the men's open singles division of the 15th PIC Tennis Championships last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

## Akimaru leads high-point awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru was among the high-point winners in the SSC International Invitational Swim Meet held for three days at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Akimaru lorded it over in the boys 13 to 14 age group, besting seven other swimmers. He collected 79 points off first place finishes in seven individual races (200 and 400m individual medley, 100m and 200m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, and 50m and

100m backstroke) and one relay (400m freestyle relay) and one runner-up (50m freestyle). Akimaru prevailed over teammate Christian Villacrusis (71 points), Tsunami Saipan's Mark Maestro (54), Manho-ben Swim Club's Santiago Poppe (46), Andersen Marlins-PC's Sekia Banes (38), and fellow SSC swimmers David Boyer (35), R.J. Pierce (18), and Dominic Zedde (11). Points were awarded based on each swimmer's ranking in each race with 9 going to the winner.



**See AKIMARU on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru competes in the 200m breaststroke event of the SSC International Invitational Swim Meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

## Bittersweet PXC ending for Saipan bets

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Vince "The Clinch" Masga won his second bout in the Pacific

Xtreme Combat, but crowd favorite Frank "The Crank" Camacho succumbed to his Japanese foe in separate



fight in last Friday's PXC 47 at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao. Masga defeated

Guam's Scotty "Da Slaya" Eclavea (3-2) by rear-naked choke submission in the third round to improve his fight record to 6-1 with four of his wins by way of submission.

It was an early birthday gift for Masga as he will turn 21 years old on March 19. He debuted with a unanimous decision win over McKlane Alfred in PXC 45 last year.

It was a sorry day for the Marianas though, as Camacho suffered a first round loss to Japanese shooto champion Yusuke Kasuya by rear-naked choke submission. He dropped to 15-3 while Kasuya improved to 9-1-2.

Camacho, on his Facebook post, said that it was a humbling experience and he will use the loss as a lesson.

"I was served a huge martial arts lesson this past Friday. Very humbling. And I know it's well needed results for the future,"



JON PEREZ

Vince "The Clinch" Masga, seen here competing in last year's Art of War 9: Grappling, Submission and Jiu-jitsu Challenge, improved his fight record to 6-1 after beating Scotty "Da Slaya" Eclavea in last Friday's Pacific Xtreme Combat 47.

**See PXC on Page 26**